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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Developments—Five Iranian gunboats attacked a Norwegian tanker off the UAE coast 4 August, AFP reported, noting that the vessel was not seriously damaged and was able to continue its journey under the protection of a warship. The tanker is carrying Saudi crude oil to Rotterdam.

The attack in the Gulf followed Iranian claims that Iraqi warplanes used chemical weapons (CW) in a 2 August air raid on the Iranian Kurdish town of Oshnoviyeh, West Azarbayjan. IRNA stated that over 1,700 people were injured in the CW attack, adding that over 100 of the victims are seriously affected and are receiving hospital treatment. Iraqi planes also used CW against two villages in the Orumiyeh area the same day, the agency added. The charges were denied by an Iraqi spokesman, who told INA that Iran is indulging in "slander" in an attempt to find justifications for continuing its policy of "aggression."

As for the Iraqi air attacks 3 August, a military communique cited by Baghdad radio stated that the targets were two oil pumping stations. A military spokesman cited by INA denied an Iranian claim that an Iraqi jet was shot down in Bushehr Province.

Diplomacy—If Iraq fails to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598 and a cease-fire, Iranian forces will deal a "paralyzing blow" to the Iraqi forces, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i warned in a statement carried by IRNA. In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larijani that Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 "changed the situation for the better" and was an "important and encouraging step" toward resolving the conflict, TASS reported.

Returning to Baghdad after visits to five Arab states, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan said the tour was "successful," asserting that the Arab leaders he met had expressed support for Iraq's demand for direct talks, INA reported. The final stop on Ramadan's tour was in Jordan, where King Husayn "praised Iraq's peace efforts and its response to all resolutions, including Resolution 598," according to INA.

In an Egyptian press interview reported by AFP, Ramadan announced that Iraq "insists" on the clearance of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, which is currently impassable due to mines and shipwrecks. "Analysts" cited by AFP noted that this adds "another possible complication" to the talks in New York.

PLO and Jordan

The PLO Central Council (PCC) issued a statement at the end of its 31 July-2 August meeting in Baghdad which noted that it held "wide discussions" of Jordan's legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank, "measures which Jordan adopted without any consultations with or the knowledge of the PLO." In light of this discussion, the PCC affirmed "the PLO's commitment to and its shouldering of all the national and pan-Arab responsibilities in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The statement, which was broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, added that the PCC entrusts the Executive Committee with studying the "aspects and repercussions" of the Jordanian measures, and holding "the required contacts with fraternal Jordan." The PCC also stressed that statements on the issue should not be made "outside the legitimate frameworks," but should only come from "the leadership and the PLO Executive Committee chairman." The statement also affirmed the PCC's support for the "speedy convocation" of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to "bolster" and "escalate" the Palestinian "uprising" in the occupied territories.

On the Palestinian situation in Lebanon, the statement held Syria "fully responsible" for the recent destruction of refugee camps in Beirut and for the "expulsion of our people" from them. The PCC called on Syria to put a swift end to the "abnormal situation" in the Beirut camps and to enable "the masses of the camps" to return to them.

UAE newspapers cited by WAKH reported that the PCC session included a detailed discussion of the issue of a Palestinian government-in-exile and predicted that such a government will be announced at the upcoming PNC extraordinary session. Meanwhile, PLO envoys will visit Arab capitals to discuss "new ideas" stemming from the PCC session, according to a Palestinian source cited by WAKH.

For Jordan's part, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah said his country will continue to deal with the PLO and with the "daily life affairs" of people in the occupied territory as long as this does not "arouse the sensitivities" of the PLO. Speaking in an interview carried by SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said Jordan is relinquishing "measures, institutions, relations, and legislation" which used to "provoke" the PLO and made it believe Jordan was competing with it.

Jordan and the PLO will continue to cooperate in many issues affecting daily life in the occupied territory, he added, but the work through consultations and committees can henceforth take place in an atmosphere free of the "doubts" cast on Jordan during recent years. He indicated that Jordan's move does not constitute a

formal abrogation of the 1950 union between the two banks, but that it is an acceptance of the PLO's demand to be responsible for the liberation of the West Bank.

On Jordanian payments to employees in the West Bank, Al-Khasawinah said those who were Jordanian Government employees before the occupation "will have their rights safeguarded," but employees hired through development plans "will be dealt with according to the provisions of their work contracts." Jordanian officials cited by AFP subsequently disclosed that Jordan has decided to fire 21,035 Palestinian employees in the territories and to halt monthly payments to some 3,000 others.

Israel

At a cabinet meeting 3 August to debate the Jordanian move in the occupied territories, Minister Ari'el Sharon proposed the imposition of Israeli law on Jewish settlement areas in Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Sharon claimed his proposal could win a "broad national consensus" in view of the "new situation," the radio added. Reacting to Sharon's remarks, Alignment ministers said his proposal would lead to a "demographic catastrophe," Jerusalem television reported.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Alignment ministers that King Husayn "adheres to the London agreement," IDF radio said. Peres gave "the impression" that he had received a message from Husayn after Jordan announced its new policy toward the territories, the radio added.

Although the police lack "evidence to put him on trial," their detention of Faysal al-Husayni was "essential for security" because he is an "agitator" and leader of the Palestinian uprising, the police minister said in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio.

Residents of Hebron's Jewish quarter announced the establishment of an association to protect Jewish residents of the occupied territories whose weapons have been confiscated by security forces, 'AL HAMISHMAR revealed. The association will provide such Jews with "alternate security arrangements," the paper added.

The Foreign Ministry instructed the head of its consular delegation in Moscow to "lower his media profile" because it "displeased" the Soviets, according to "sources in Jerusalem" cited by THE JERUSALEM POST. Officials said the delegation received "scant mention" in the Soviet press and called the "massive media scrutiny" by Israeli media "unseemly," the paper reported.

Lebanon: Hostages

Hizballah issued a statement denying FRG reports that it was behind the kidnapping of former hostage Alfred Schmidt, according to AFP. The statement said remarks by the Syrian defense minister that Hizballah received a ransom for Schmidt's release were "totally unfounded." Hizballah is "not linked" to the hostage question, the statement emphasized. In the FRG, officials confirmed that Mrs. Rudolf Cordes has received two handwritten letters from her captive husband, DPA reported. The "breakthrough" in the case resulted from an official's recent talks with an "Iranian emissary," DPA added.

Palestinian Terrorists in Peru

Peru will expel three members of Abu Nidal's organization who were arrested 30 July, Lima television announced. The three Palestinians are being expelled for having violated Peruvian immigration law, but they are also suspected of planning to attack the U.S. Embassy in Lima, according to Lima radio.

Kuwait

"Informed sources" in Cairo indicated Kuwait will soon conclude a deal to purchase 40 Mirage-2000 aircraft from France, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT stated. The sources called the deal an "indication" of Kuwait's efforts to strengthen its air defenses against "Iranian threats."

Afghanistan

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze met his Pakistani counterpart for talks in Moscow and accused Pakistan of openly violating and undermining the Geneva accords, TASS indicated. During the talks, which the agency characterized as "businesslike and open," Shevardnadze expressed the USSR's "regret and alarm" at Pakistan's "whipping up" an atmosphere of confrontation in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

In a "detailed exchange," Shevardnadze said Pakistan's support for the rebel missile campaign against Afghan cities "cannot be described other than as international terrorism" and said the USSR and Afghanistan will do what is necessary "to counter the growing interference." Shevardnadze accused Pakistan of actions that "hamper in every way" the return of Afghan refugees and decried Islamabad's "evasive statements" on Soviet POW's.

Shevardnaze accused the Pakistani minister of replying to his remarks with "a standard set of arguments" and said "escalation" of armed clashes in Afghanistan will "seriously interfere" with any improvement in Soviet-Pakistani relations.

On the military situation, the Armed Forces "discovered and neutralized" surface-to-surface missiles which the rebels planned to use to attack Kabul, Kabul radio noted. Afghan troops are "bogging down" in an offensive against rebel "strongholds" around the city, AFP reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Seven-Member Committee Concludes Meetings

Issues Statement

JN0208203588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—The seven-member committee for following up the Iraq-Iran war has affirmed its support for holding direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran under the auspices of the UN secretary general to reach a comprehenisve and lasting settlement of the dispute and to conlcude a peace agreement between the two countries.

In a statement issued here tonight at the conclusion of its meetings, the committee announced that it views Iraq's call for direct negotiations as evidence of good intentions and of the desire to implement the resolution [No 598] as soon as possible. The committee also believed that reaching an integral agreement to implement Resolution No 598 in accordance with the sequence of its paragraphs is the sound basis and path toward peace.

Following is the text of the seven-member committee's statement:

The seven-member committee for following up the developments in the Iraq-Iran war, stemming from the Arab League Council, held a meeting in Baghdad on 2 August 1988 in the presence of the foreign ministers of the member states and the Arab League secretary general.

The committee held an in-depth and profound discussion of the new situation in light of the war developments and the victories achieved by Iraq which are represented by the liberation of all the occupied territory and the defeat of the 8-year-old Iranian aggression. This aggression threatens regional security and peace as well as world security and peace. The committee praises these victories achieved by Iraq's heroic Army, wise leadership, and great people. The committee's discussions also dealt with Iran's declaration of its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 1 year after the issuance of this resolution.

The committee, in line with all the efforts it has exerted since its establishment for attaining a just and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the region that is based on mutual respect for sovereignty and noninterference in domestic affairs, supports direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran under the UN secretary general's auspices. This is to secure the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict and the conclusion of a peace agreement between the two countries.

The committee views Iraq's demand for direct negotiations as a sign of good intention and a desire to implement the resolution as quickly as possible.

The committee also believes that a comprehensive agreement on the implementation of Resolution 598 in accordance with its operative provisions is the basis of and the soundest approach to peace.

From the premise of its eagerness to end the war and to establish a comprehensive and just peace, the committee appeals to the international community, specifically to the UN Security Council members, to work toward securing a comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict through direct negotiations and attaining a lasting and comprehensive peace agreement.

[Dated] Baghdad, 2 August 1988

Kuwaiti Minister Leaves

JN0208202088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug, (INA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has left Baghdad for home after he participated in the meetings of the seven-member committee entrusted with following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, which concluded this evening.

The minister was seen off by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Klibi, Arab Ministers Leave

JN0308092788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Baghdad today after participating in the meetings of the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with following developments in the Iraq-Iran war, which concluded its meetings here last night.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, and YAR Foreign Minister Under Secretary Ahmad al- 'Iryani, also left Baghdad after participating in the committee's meetings.

They were seen off by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the committee's member states' ambassadors in Baghdad.

Klibi on Peace, Meetings

JN0308142588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1204 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has affirmed that Iraq's stand is unchanged regarding adherence to Resolution 598 and to its full implementation in accordance with the sequence of its articles.

In an exclusive statement to INA Klibi said that Iraq and the Arab countries have the right to view the future with caution because past experience has been bitter and because the Iranian statements which accompanied the announcement of accepting UN Security Council Resolution No 598 arouse all sorts of questions, and even doubt about the sincerity of intentions. He said caution is legitimate, if not an obligation.

He added: Iraq's stand will not change. In my capacity as Arab League secretary general and in view of my participation in the seven-member committee since its establishment, I can assert that the Iraqi and Arab stand is based on the known constants. He said we want peace, but the sound durable peace which is based on the solid ground of international law.

He noted that the committee will ask the UN Security Council to adopt all arrangements to secure completely guaranteed steps to resolve the dispute and establish peace in accordance with Resolution 598 and the sequence of its articles.

The Arab League secretary general described yesterday's meetings of the Arab seven-member committee in Baghdad as being of extreme importance because they were held after a series of victories scored by the valiant Iraqi Army which changed the course of the war, forcing Iran to announce acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution.

He said feelings of pride prevailed during the meetings because fraternal Iraq managed to regain its occupied territories. He said the prevailing atmosphere during the meetings was that of sentiment interacting with responsibility toward the coming stage which will be devoted to establishing peace.

On the most important results of the committee meetings, Chedli Klibi said the committee adopted a number of decisions regarding the contacts and moves which will be carried out by its members to bolster the peace march. He said the committee members will have the honor of participating in achieving peace.

He announced that the seven-member committee will remain in continuous convocation in order to follow the developments of the ongoing consultations and discussions.

He said the committee will do all that it considers useful for bolstering the peace efforts exerted by the Iraqi leadership and the UN secretary general with the participation of the UN Security Council member states. He said this is because the issue of ending the war on bases making it possible to resolve the dispute forever and to restore security and stability to the region is extremely important.

Palestinian Affairs

Further PLO Reaction to Decision on West Bank

PLO Central Council Statement

JN0308185788 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1739 GMT 3 Aug 88

["Text" of an "important political statement" issued by the PLO Central Council "after a 3-day meeting in Baghdad which began on 31 July"; read by announcer; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. God made it but a message of hope for you and an assurance to your hearts: In any case there is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse]

The PLO Central Council [PCC] held its ordinary meeting in Baghdad on 31 July 1988. The PCC began its session by observing a minute's silence and reading the Al-Fatiha Sura from the Koran on the soul of the symbolic leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

The PCC then discussed and approved the agenda of the session, which was named after the martyr Abu Jihad. The PCC adopted the appropriate resolutions vis-a-vis the topics on the agenda as follows:

1. The Blessed Uprising:

The PCC heard a comprehensive report on our people's uprising in the occupied homeland, the steps of its escalation, and the pillars of its strength, continuation, and comprehensiveness. The uprising is being carried out by all our people—men, children, women, students, workers, landlords, farmers, professionals, academics, tradesmen, and employees.

All our people are accurately organized within the popular committees that have expanded and continued through the great sacrifices, unique heroism, giant capabilities, and unique creativeness demonstrated by our masses in this revolutionary, popular, and blessed epic.

The PCC also followed up the effects created by this popular revolution in the ranks of the Zionist enemy and in the international and Arab arenas. The PCC also followed up the failure of the occupation forces to achieve their objectives and to extinguish or control this revolution.

This popular revolution has exposed the inhuman, fascist, and racist face of this enemy as well as the real picture of the Zionist entity before world public opinion, particularly its terrorist and criminal practices against our people and masses.

These include the abortion of pregnant women, the burial of living people, the breaking of bones, the Nazi concentration camps and their brutal methods, the demolition of houses, deportation from the homeland, the uprooting and damaging of trees, and the encroachment on Islamic and Christian holy places.

This takes place at a time when the blessed uprising is continuing before the world throughout the occupied homeland within the framework of a militant and solid national unity, thereby embodying our Palestinian people's determination to defeat the Zionist occupation to extract our right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of our militant people, with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PCC was acquainted with the moral and financial assistance presented by the Palestinian people, the Arab nation, and the various international institutions, as well as the political, information, and financial assistance by the uprising summit in Algiers, to reinforce the steadfastness of the uprising masses in the face of the Zionist repression and siege imposed on our people to strike at their challenging and solid will.

The PCC highly praises all good efforts and Palestinian and Arab initiatives, particularly the convening of the uprising summit in Algiers. The PCC praises the international efforts to support the uprising and enable its masses to continue struggle against the Zionist occupation. The PCC calls on the sons of the Palestinian and Arab people as well as peace-loving people in the world to continue campaigns of support.

The PCC calls on our people to reinforce and intensify the cooperation and solidarity between families inside and outside the occupied homealnd. The PCC also calls on the PLO Executive Committee to contact Arab countries to implement what has been agreed upon in the Algiers summit as well as to form permanent committees to support the uprising in the Arab and international arenas as well as in the various friendly areas in the world.

The PCC is confident that our Arab nation—states, peoples, and governments as well as social, political, economic, and information bodies— will continue to extend all forms of comprehensive political, financial, and moral support for the great mass uprising in our occupied Palestinian homeland.

Our people's children, men, and women will unify their unrelenting struggle and blessed fighting to escalate their uprising despite all sorts of Zionist oppression, repression, and terror until holy Jerusalem, the place from which Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven and which houses the third most holy Islamic mosque, as well as the birthplace of Christ, peace be upon Him, are liberated from Zionist usurpation.

They will continue to resist attempts to empty the occupied territory of its population, especially since the Palestinian people firmly reject all the projects of settling the Palestinians outside their homeland in all their forms.

2. On the Jordanian Measures.

The PLO Central Council heard the Executive Committee's report on the recent Jordanian measures, especially the legal and administrative disengagement between Jordan and the occupied West Bank—measures which Jordan adopted without any consultations with or the knowledge of the PLO.

The Council held wide discussions over these measures. In light of these discussions and based on the PLO's commitment to resolutions of the successive PNC sessions, Arab summits, and the United Nations, the Central Council affirms the PLO's commitment to and its shouldering of all the national and pan-Arab responsibilities in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Council also pledges to uphold all the pertinent commitments that stress the Palestinian identity of both the Palestinian people and land in accordance with resolutions of PNC sessions and Arab summits.

The PCC affirms the adherence of the Palestinian people and the leader of its struggle, the PLO, to the distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples as stipulated in the PNC resolutions. While doing so, the PCC entrusts the Executive Committee with studying the various aspects and repercussions of the recent Jordanian measures, taking the necessary decisions and measures, and holding the required contacts with fraternal Jordan, all of the Arab countries, all our friends, and international parties.

This will enable the Palestinian people to continue their brave uprising against the occupation and realize our people's inalienable national rights and to preserve their acquired rights and protect their unity inside and outside Palestine.

Foremost among their rights is their right to return, their right of self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state over our national soil.

The PCC emphasized to the Central Committee the need to regulate all actions and various fields. The PCC stressed the need for everyone to be committed to collective resolutions and actions and for statements not to be made outside the legitimate frameworks and to be concentrated within the framework of the leadership and the PLO Executive Committee chairman, especially in the current important phase of the Palestinian cause.

3. On the Conditions of the Palestinian Camps in Lebanon.

The principles and constants which govern relations between the PLO and the fraternal Arab states are represented by working to entrench Arab solidarity in confronting the Zionist usurpation and rejecting the policy of polarization and side battles.

The PCC is eager to develop and strengthen PLO relations with all the Arab states to serve our people's and nation's aims of defeating the Zionist occupation and liberating the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

In light of the above, and to strengthen the resources of the Palestinian revolution in confronting the Zionist enemy, and to preserve the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and reject interference by any Arab state in our international affairs, the PCC discussed the conditions in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the destruction to which they were exposed, and the expulsion of our people in Sabra, Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah.

While voicing its strong condemnation of the crime of destroying the Palestinian camps and expelling their inhabitants, the PCC rejects all the arguments which sought to cover this crime by renewing the allegations about Palestinian infighting.

The PCC holds the Syrian leadership fully responsbile for the destruction of our camps and the expulsion of our people in the Beirut area while our people are continuing their powerful uprising against the Zionist occupation. The masses of the uprising were looking forward to further support and backing from the Syrian leadership for the PLO and the Palestinian camps in Lebanon which constitute a militant asset for the uprising.

The PLO has exerted sincere and faithful efforts to turn the dark pages in Syrian-Palestinian relations, to correct these relations, and to lay the necessary foundations to unite the Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab efforts and energies within the framework of a united front to confront the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan and to open the biggest of the fighting fronts against the Zionist invasion.

The camps war caused all of us pain and bitterness. It gave the enemy the chance to catch its breath and to direct psychologocial warfare against the uprising's masses to double its tyranny, terrorism, and suppression against our revolutionary masses.

The PCC reaffirms the need to enable the masses of the camps to return to Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah. It also affirms the need to rebuild the camps as soon as possible and calls on the Syrian leadership to put a swift end to the abormal situation in which these camps exist.

The Council also calls for respect toward the Arab resolutions connected with the protection of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, as well as the protection of the Palestinian camps—particularly our camps in Sidon and Tyre and other Lebanese areas—and calls for confronting the deportation plot that is being prepared against our masses there.

Greetings to Fraternal Iraq:

The Council salutes President Saddam Husayn, the heroic Iraqi Army, and the fraternal Iraqi people for the victories achieved at the eastern gate in defense of the Arab land. The Council congratulates our Arab nation's masses and all honest and free men in the world for these great victories.

Despite its preoccupation with the vicious war that was imposed on it, fraternal Iraq supported our Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO. Since the uprising began, Iraq took the initiative to sponsor the martyrs' families and to support the uprising politically, materially, and morally—in Arab and international forums.

After Iran announced its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, our Palestinian masses are looking forward to the achievement of a near and final end to the Iraq-Iran war and the establishment of a comprehensive and full peace.

They also look forward to the establishment of sound and constructive neighborly relationships, which will serve the cause of pan-Arab security, contribute to the confrontation of the dangers facing our Arab homeland, and enable the Iranian peoples to carry out their duty in support of the Palestinian cause and our people's struggle to liberate our land and sacred places.

The victories of fraternal Iraq and the uprising of our Palestinian people map out the feature of a new stage in Arab life that is based on pan-Arab support for the Arab march in its new era and for our people's struggle and our Palestinian revolution.

While greeting Iraq and blessing its steadfastness and victories, we look forward to the day when Arab and Islamic efforts and potentials will unite to confront the Zionist enemy and to liberate the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

On the international level, our people's blessed uprising has contributed to effecting important and basic changes in international public opinion and in the stands of the various international blocs. This takes place while the world witnesses a new course that is cleaving its way toward international detente, peaceful coexistence, disarmament, and the settlement of regional conflicts.

This paves the way for better circumstances under which our people will pursue their struggle to wrest their national rights, repulse the Zionist enemy, and attain their national independence.

At the pinnacle of the international support for our just cause and for our militant people, particularly the stands of our friends in the socialist countries, is, namely, the stand of the friendly Soviet Union and the PRC, as well as the stands of the friends in the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic countries, the African countries, and the European countries, including the Jewish communities in them which have rejected Israel's crimes, fascism, and racism against our people. The PCC highly praises the friendly stands these friendly countries adopt toward our just cause.

In light of its readings of international developments and changes, the PCC recommends that the PLO Executive Committee pursue international moves to garner further support and assistance for our people's giant uprising and to isolate our enemy which continues to reject and defy international legitimacy and resolutions.

The PCC supports the international call for the convocation of an effective international conference with prerogatives to attain peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN resolutions, under UN auspices, and with the participation of the UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing and having the same rights as other parties. This is to attain our Palesinian people's inalienable rights.

In view of all these important developments that our Palestinian cause is experiencing and which have been entrenched by the blessed uprising, the PCC recommends that the PLO Executive Committee work for a swift convocation of the PNC to bolster this uprising and escalate it from one victory to another until the termination of the occupation.

We greet our people's uprising which is on the threshold of its 9th month. The uprising continues with this momentum, this faith, this strength, and with this accurate and splendid organization and through the great sacrifices and the deluge of this pure blood which continues to be shed during the Palestinian march.

While greeting the uprising, the PCC emphasizes the importance of pooling all potential and resources to pursue the uprising and to escalate it within the framework of the perpetuation of the battle of independence and freedom, the battle for wresting the right to self-determination, and the battle for the independent Palestinian state.

The PCC addresses a special greeting to the Tunisian Democratic Constitutional Rally on the occasion of its convocation. On this ocasion, the PCC greets Tunisia—president and people—for their constant stands in support for the Palestinian people and for hosting their leaders.

The PCC respectfully and proudly greets our heroic masses in our occupied territories, in the camps of steadfastness, and wherever they may be in the diaspora. It also greets our heroes who are wounded and detained, who defy the enemy, its despotism, and its diabolical fascist war machine in spite of their many tribulations.

Greetings, coupled with pride and appreciation to our children, women, and men in our occupied Palestine. Greetings, coupled with pride and appreciation to our strike forces in our usurped land. Glory and imortality to our pure martyrs. Revolution until victory.

PLO Envoy on Husayn Move

AU0308110788 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Interview with Dawud Barakat, PLO representative to Vienna, by Armin Wolf in Vienna on 3 August]

[Text] [Wolf] Mr Barakat, after King Husayn's step all observers said that this is an enormous success, a great victory for the PLO. In the meantime, the statements have become more differentiated. The PLO itself has not expressed particular euphoria. Is this a victory for the PLO, as some observers said?

[Barakat] We are struggling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This state has to be established in the occupied territories. Jordan took a step in 1950 when the West Bank was joined with Jordan. Most Palestinians did not approve of this. Now the situation has been reestablished to our liking.

[Wolf] Do you think this step on King Husayn's part has brought you any closer to a Palestinian state?

[Barakat] Certainly. From the political viewpoint we have again been put on the world's political map.

[Wolf] Does the PLO now assume responsibility for the occupied territories in view of the fact that now financial aid from Jordan will be missing? Will the PLO step into the breach now?

[Barakat] These things will all be discussed again with the Jordanian Government at a forthcoming meeting between 'Arafat and Husayn. Indirectly the situation has always been as it is now. Certain aspects remain as they are—particularly as regards officials of the Health Ministry and of the Education Ministry. But there are also some things that we might call historically won rights for Palestinians in Jordan. I think these will not be affected.

[Wolf] This means that in spite of the administrative separation, an economic connection between Jordan and the West Bank will remain.

[Barakat] Certainly.

[Wolf] There has been a discussion over the past few days about whether the Palestinians in the West Bank will be permitted to keep their Jordanian passports. Many observers suppose Jordan might let these passports expire and might not renew them. Then the West Bank inhabitants would be stateless. Do you also fear this?

[Barakat] There are already official Jordanian communiques that say there will be no change in the current situation. I would not speculate on this matter. We have to wait for the meeting between 'Arafat and Husayn.

[Wolf] Observers also say the PLO has been strengthened, that Husayn has strengthened the PLO. Do you think Husayn is honest about this? Or has he once more left some loophole for himself?

[Barakat] What is honest or dishonest in politics? We can only take him at his word. A letter officially sent by the Jordanian Government to the Arab League and to the UN Security Council has made the juridical situation clear to us.

[Wolf] What is the PLO's negotiating position like now? To date there has also been the model of a mixed Jordanian and Palestinian delegation to a potential peace conference—no pure Palestinian delegation, since this is rejected by Israel and the United States. What is the PLO's position at present?

[Barakat] This was over when the king canceled the agreement between the PLO and Jordan 3 years ago. We would accept and be ready to discuss a mixed Arab delegation in which all Arab parties to the conflict were to participate.

[Wolf] Including Jordan?

[Barakat] Yes, including Jordan.

[Wolf] The main argument of Israel and the United States in rejecting the PLO has always been that first the PLO would have to renounce terrorism and to recognize Israel's right to exist. Now, over the past few months, there have been several reports that in some interviews PLO representatives said they recognize Israel's right to exist. Can you tell us now about the situation in this respect? Does the PLO recognize Israel's right to exist as a state?

[Barakat] It is always difficult to distinguish between de jure and de facto. But in politics one also has to be a pragmatist. As soon as the PLO accepts sitting at the same table with the other party to the conflict at an international conference, a de facto recognition has been demonstrated.

[Wolf] And you would accept this?

[Barakat] Certainly.

Government-in-Exile Viewed

JN0308124188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Observers in Amman believe the ball is now in the PLO court, now that Jordan has agreed to the PLO request to disengage the administrative and legal relationship with the West Bank.

Amman has made its decision to dispel doubts regarding its intentions toward the occupied territory and to strengthen the trust between it and the PLO.

In the past 2 days Jordanian officials have repeatedly said Amman has no intentions to take any other steps unless the PLO asks it to do so.

It has been learned from Palestinian sources close to the PLO that during the PNC session which the Palestinian leaders called to convene this month, the PLO will discuss the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile. The sources said that if formed the government will administer the internal affairs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These affairs used to be Jordan's responsibility.

The same sources said the idea of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile was originally an Algerian proposal to form a government similar to the Algerian provisional government formed in Cairo more than 3 years prior to Algeria's independence.

Steps on Government-in-Exile

JN0408070088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0635 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Aug (WAKH)—Press reports said here today the PLO Central Council discussed in detail the issue of a Palestinian government-in-exile in reply to Israeli statements that viewed that the Jordanian decision left the West Bank "without a constitutional cover." The discussion was also in reply to Israeli voices that urge canceling the enactment of Jordanian law and replacing it with Israeli law in a step to annex the West Bank to Israel.

On the other hand, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD points out that arrangements to declare a government-in-exile have been made and that such a government will be announced in the PNC's extraordinary session scheduled to be held in Baghdad.

In Cairo, an Egyptian source told the newspaper that if the Jordanian move constitutes a problem for the Palestinians, a government-in-exile may be the alternative that embodies a solution to avoid any legal impasse resulting from the administrative and legal disengagement between the West Bank and Jordan.

Visits to Arab Capitals Planned

JN0308160488 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 3 (QNA)—PLO delegates will visit a number of Arab capitals during the next few hours to table new ideas in light of the Palestinian National Council discussions held recently in Baghdad concerning laterst Jordanian decisions. A Palestinian source told QNA correspondent in Cairo.

The delegates will also discuss the consequences of Jordanian King Husayn's decision to end legal and administrative supervision on West Bank.

'Uprising' Leaders Welcome Move

JN0408061688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Leaders of the uprising in the occupied territories have welcomed Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank and consider this decision one of the most important gains of the uprising. This welcome was expressed in leaflets distributed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday. This is the first reaction by the uprising leaders to the Jordanian decision, which was discussed for 2 days by the PLO Central Council in Baghdad.

PFLP's Habash Comments

NC0408113888 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash has said that Jordan's decision to sever the administrative and legal link with the occupied West Bank and the measures that have preceded it are one of the achievements of the heroic uprising and a tangible victory on the road leading to the Palestinian people's retrieval of its unified national identity.

In a statement to the Voice of the People, Habash added this victory constitutes a step toward establishing our independent state on our homeland.

The PFLP secretary general noted that the Jordanian regime has the habit of bending before the masses' storm whenever it finds itself unable to confront it and then hitting back more ferociously and with clearer treasonous steps. Habash stressed that no matter how much the Jordanian regime will try to hit back later at the Palestinians' rights, the Palestinian people will not submit to blackmail and will continue the struggle to restore their identity and national rights.

He said the recent Jordanian decision puts the PLO, its leadership, and all the Palestinian action groups to the test of protecting this victory, providing the requisites for its development, and foiling the Jordanian regime's dreams or illusions of turning this act of bending into a temporary tactical withdrawal by adhering to our national struggle program and by providing the requisites so that all material and other supports for the Palestinian masses will be fulfilled.

Chad

Radio Reports Arrival of Troops in Sudan

AB0308195288 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] A contingent of about 2,500 men of the Islamic Legion is moving from Koufra toward Sudanese territory. This contingent has arrived in the Darfur Region, not far from the border between Chad and Sudan, and it is trying to attack Chad. This troop movement reveals the double dealings of Libya, which on one hand makes declarations for peace and on the other prepares to launch an offensive against Chad.

At the same time, this shows the responsibility of the Sudanese Government, and particularly the complicity of top level Sudanese officials, who (?for a long time) have been giving appeasing explanations to international public opinion, while condoning acts of aggression against Chad.

Opposition Claims 'Disagreement' With Libya

AB0208102988 London BBC World Service in English 06330 GMT 2 Aug 88

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] [Break in transmission]... has explained why 2,000 of its forces entered western Sudan from Libya over the weekend. In a statement issued in Paris, it said the force crossed the border because of the disagreement between their leader Acheikh ibn Oumar and the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

The Sudanese Defense Ministry said several of the rebels who were intercepted carried letters to the Sudanese authorities saying they had revolted after hearing that Ibn Oumar had been arrested by the Libyan authorities. The Chadian charge d'affaires in Khartoum is being kept informed of developments concerning the rebels. Forces moving are being monitored by the Sudanese Government forces.

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Reviewing Links to Gaza Strip

NC0408093488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Aug (MENA)—In its issue today the Saudi AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper cites an informed source in Cairo as saying that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is currently studying the recent Jordanian decisions to disengage its legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank and to let the PLO assume full responsibility for it.

The source said that some of the issues being studied by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry are the legal status of the Gaza Strip's governor general, whose temporary headquarters is in Cairo, Egypt's supervision of examinations in Gaza, and the issuance of birth and death certificates for the inhabitants of the Strip, with a view to entrusting these responsibilities to the PLO.

In his exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the source added that Egypt has repeatedly rejected an Israeli offer to return Gaza to Egyptian administration and other attempts to have Egypt market the Gaza Strip citrus production so that this would not be interpreted as an Egyptian attempt to strengthen links with the sons of the Gaza Strip at the expense of the PLO.

The source went on to say there is a possibility that a high-level Jordanian [as received] meeting will be held at a later date to discuss the Jordanian measures and their consequences. Official Egyptian circles are willing to discuss with Jordan and the PLO the issue of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile to administer the internal affairs of the occupied territories if the issue is raised for discussion.

Mubarak Interviewed on Domestic, Mideast Issues

JN3107103188 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 29 Jul pp 4-17

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by AL-MUSAWWAR Editor in Chief Makram Muhammad Ahmad in Cairo on 21 July]

[Text] [Ahmad] Some people imagine the president does not know that the burden of prices has become heavy for all groups. Some people ask whether the president knows that the price of watermelon is now more than 70 piasters, and that the price of eggs, meat, and chicken have risen at a much higher rate than the rise of wages.

The president: The president knows everything because he does not live in an ivory tower, because in his view of Egyptian reality he does not rely only on written reports, because he meets with numerous friends, relatives, acquaintances and asks them about everything, and because he is always in the centers of production, asking and listening.

Those who ask if the president knows that the burden of prices has increased do not know that the president is perhaps the first to be shocked by the price increases in world markets, their potential effect on domestic prices, their increasing burdens on subsidies, especially as we are still importing 60 percent of our food requirements.

The president knows, for he is required to help the government in arranging 3 billion pounds instead of the 1.7 billion pounds the government was spending in subsidies for bread following the constant rise in the world prices of wheat. These prices have reached $149 a tonne and can rise to $220 a tonne within a few months. Several months ago we used to spend $84 a tonne.

The president knows, for he is required to help the government in arranging 413 million pounds in subsidies for oil whose price on the world market has risen by $179 a tonne. In addition to what our factories produce we are still importing 400,000 tonnes that barely meet our needs.

The president knows for he is required to help the government in finding 91 million pounds to subsidize sugar prices which have risen on the world markets this month at an average of $100 per tonne—an abrupt increase, like the increases in the prices of wheat and oil. In addition to what Egyptian plants produce we are still importing 400,000 tonnes to meet our needs.

Where will we get all this money from, when the bread subsidy alone may rise from 1.7 billion pounds to 3 billion pounds as a result of the abrupt price rise in wheat and other foodstuffs which began last June? Our resources are limited, and they are barely sufficient for salaries, wages, expenditure on such services as education, health and so on, and some of the cost of debts.

Prices will have to rise as a result of the rise in world market prices. The task of the government is to try, as much as it can, to spare the needy groups of society the heavy burden of such vast price increases.

I ask myself: Until when and how? The budget—whose preparation we have just completed—is required to carry the additional burden of 1.5 billion pounds to deal with such abrupt price increases.

I am aware of the burden of price increases on every family. We are making every effort to alleviate the effect of such price increases on low-income groups. The frightful increase in the burden of subsidies notwithstanding, the government will continue to provide basic commodities within the limits of subsidized prices, to fulfill its duty of protecting low-income groups.

However, I ask myself: Until when and how, when we do not try to control our consumption, when the financially capable groups rush eagerly to claim a share of subsidized goods, when some people buy bread as fodder for cattle. They buy—as I said in my speech—from the bakeries openly and in front of everyone 3,000 loaves to feed the cattle. The baker knows, and the public buying the bread know, but no one expresses dissatisfaction with such misguided and irresponsible behavior.

It is also painful that our revenues from oil, which is still our most important export, will fall by approximately $115 million as a result of the recent fall in oil prices.

[Ahmad] Mr President, perhaps the one buying bread to feed the cattle is compelled to do so because he cannot find fodder?

The president: Why are they not buying fodder? Because the government lifted the subsidy for fodder a year ago. Frankly, the government is in no position to subsidize fodder prices with the current rising consumption rates. There has been an increase in the consumption of corn, vegetable oil, sugar, flour, and tea. The prices of all these commodities are subsidized by the state. So I cannot also subsidize fodder prices.

I ask: Why don't cattle breeders form cooperative societies to import fodder from abroad without any middlemen? We have been urging them to do so over the past 4 years now, and we also declared our full commitment to ensure the necessary foreign currencies for the imports. However, there has been no response, because they are using subsidized bread as fodder. It costs less.

What should we do with these people? Should we post policemen at every bakery? Every citizen is supposed to defend the public interest.

Once again, I appeal through AL-MUSAWWAR to the cattle breeders and merchants to consider the right of the simple citizen by refraining from using bread as fodder and by forming cooperative societies to import fodder. The government undertakes to ensure the necessary foreign currencies, although the price of corn also went up this month from $85 to $132 per ton. We have to produce $108 million which is the expected increase in fodder prices.

[Ahmad] One aspect of the problem of prices in Egypt is that everyone is increasing his prices at a higher rate than the increase in world prices. Furthermore, the increase in the prices of locally-produced commodities is due to the many middlemen between the producers and consumers.

The president: Let us be realistic so that we can examine all aspects of the problem. Since the prices of oil and fats went up this month to $790 per ton, an increase of $180 per ton, then it is only natural to expect the prices of all the industries using oil, such as the soap industry, to also go up.

If we in the public sector are doing all we can to maintain reasonable prices for these products to be on a par with the private sector prices, nobody I think can ask the private sector to sustain losses.

And since we are also asking the private sector to increase the wages of its workers and employees, it is only natural to expect the private sector to also increase the prices of its products.

You told me a short while ago about the citizen who wants to know if I am aware of the fact that the current price of 1 kg [of watermelon] is 70 piasters.

I, in turn, would like to ask this citizen if he knows that the prices of seeds have gone up and that workers' wages, transportation costs, and fertilizer prices have gone up and that wages of agricultural workers have doubled.

Still, what the citizen said is not correct. The current price of 1 kg of watermelon is not 70 piasters, unless this citizen is one of those who love to brag and who pay any price without asking. The price was close to what he said some 4 weeks ago. But when grocers noticed the drop in demand, they reduced their prices to 40 piasters, and even less than that by handcart vendors on every street corner. If our friend is one of those who love showmanship, then he is definitely paying 70 piasters per kilo in return for the favored treatment and respect given to the well-to-do and high-income families in certain quarters of Cairo.

Finally, I would like to tell this citizen that watermelon entered my home only when its price dropped to 50 piasters per kilo. This is not because I can only afford this price, but because I asked myself: Why should I pay 12 pounds for a watermelon when the price is bound to drop after a few days?

Still, the government is currently discussing a plan to set up more distribution centers and to expand the circle of consumer societies and to open big markets outside residential areas to eliminate the middlemen between the producer and consumer and thus exercise more effective price control.

[Ahmad] Mr President, those are true and realistic aspects of the prices problem. But there are also those who falsely raise prices due to lack of serious government control. Does the man in the street feel this way?

The president: We in the public sector are trying to keep prices within the narrowest possible level and within a very narrow profit margin to ensure continuous production without loss.

Let me tell you a strange story. One of the public sector companies was once compelled to increase its prices for a reason which would never have crossed my mind.

This company used to sell an excellent brand of jam at 75 piasters per jar. This jam used to disappear from the market within hours. When the company investigated this sudden disappearance, it discovered that a private company bought its entire production and sold it to the public in more elegant jars. The jam fetched 2 and ½ pounds simply because it was sold in these elegant jars which carried a foreign name!

The public sector had no choice but to increase its prices to prevent the private sector company from stealing its product and reselling it in more elegant jars.

[Ahmad] Mr President, this only confirms our need for more serious control on the markets.

The president: The government is controlling the markets. Hundreds of price violations are referred daily to the courts. Nothing prevents us from tightening the control, and intensifying the campaigns. However, I must also ask: What is the people's role?

An investment company dealing in butchery had increased the price of meat from 9 to 12 pounds per kilo and later to 14, 16, and 18 pounds per kilo. Yet, people are swarming to this company's butcher shops.

My only explanation for this phenomenon is that it is part of the social behavior of certain well-to-do classes in Egypt which only go for expensive commodities. This is strange indeed!

Let us compare this behavior with that of other societies which are more aware of the people's role and responsibilities. I spoke once how housewives in the United States stopped buying turkey when its price increased from $4 to $19 around Christmas. Everyone refused to buy until the price dropped to $2. In Egypt, however, the situation is to the contrary. When a butcher raises his price, the word goes round: This man has good meat. Go buy from him.

The problem in Egypt is that everyone asks about the government's role, but no one asks about his own role.

[Ahmad] Mr President, is it because we have people were accustomed for a long time to thinking that the government was responsible for everything?

The president: But the government is shouldering enormous, heavy responsibilities. It is the people's duty to help. It is the duty of every citizen to understand all the dimensions of these problems and to play his role and not just sit down, cross his legs and expect the government to do everything for him.

[Ahmad] Mr President, trade unions and federations and popular and party organizations are supposed to organize the initiatives of the masses within societies that protect the rights of consumers, as happens all over the world.

The president: This is what we are calling for. However, the parties are preoccupied with a power struggle. Had the unions, federations, and parties sought to organize these initiatives, they would have managed to impose reasonable profits on traders, because the people would be the controller, people would stop buying any commodity they found extravagantly expensive, and each individual would feel ashamed to take more than his needs.

I repeatedly talked about a personal experience when I was on a scholarship in the Soviet Union. I went to a bakery to buy some bread for a number of my colleagues. The saleswoman and the people in line were astonished

that I wanted to buy all that many loaves. I had no choice but to leave, giving my poor language as an excuse. I asked my colleagues to go and buy, each what he needed.

On many occasions, commodities would be depleted while half the people were still in line. Everyone would leave calmly, and only those who did not buy their needs would return. In Egypt, however, the line never ends because those who buy their needs come again to obtain additional quantities. If a commodity happens to be depleted, there will be a hue and cry because the others got nothing.

I will give you another example. Everyone is now complaining about ironing, prices of which have been raised under the pretext that fuel prices have been slightly increased.

What can we do about this problem? Nothing. It would be funny to make a tariff for ironing and recruit a special police force to watch laundries. The solution is not in the hand of the government, but the family itself.

What forces the family to accept these prices? Why does it not iron its own clothes, leaving difficult-to-iron clothes to the laundry? No one in the world goes to the laundry to iron a shirt or a dress. I personally used to iron my clothes even when I was a major general, because I found the prices of ironing high compared to the level of income.

All through our life, my wife and I used to wake up early to iron our children's clothes before they went to school. Many people did the same. Had something like this happened, laundries would have reconsidered their prices and made them more logical and acceptable.

[Ahmad] Mr President, if our resources only cover wages and salaries, run services in their minimal requirements, and secure interests of loans, how can Egypt, in light of the obstacles facing its program with the IMF obtain the necessary foreign finance for the second development plan?

The president: I do not think our program with the IMF is running into troubles to this extent. There are some problems and some disagreements in our viewpoints over the need to grade the economic reform process. They are trying, through the continuation of the negotiations, to obtain the highest possible number of assurances. But the program will continue because economic reform constitutes a prime and unignorable Egyptian interest.

On the other side, the government reports have not yet talked about any potential problems in financing the projects of the second development plan. Moreover, may I say that I am fully confident in our ability to finance these projects, which were planned in a way that would minimize reliance on the foreign component and invest the immense Egyptian industrial capacity in operating the biggest part of our projects' needs. This replaces the old policies, which relied on importing all the components of the productive projects without benefiting from the capabilities of many huge Egyptian workshops, which can currently manufacture the large part of this equipment.

When it comes to Egypt's resources, it is fair to say that their meagreness is traceable to old policies. No attempt has been made to boost them since the forties. Not to mention the strain of a burgeoning population and the high cost of battles and wars, some if not all of which were involuntarily fought to defend the soil and dignity of the country. Fairly speaking, if it were not for the development plan, Egypt's ills would have been even more complex and dangerous: In the food sector, the gap between our needs and our capacity to supply them would have been even wider; in the industrial sector, this varied and abundant industrial production would not have been possible had we not paid attention to rejuvinating rustic industries or reined in private enterprise, which is manufacturing new and numerous industrial goods now flooding Egyptian markets. We have invested superhuman effort and time in tackling Egypt's numerous, intertwined economic ills, which now top the list of our priorities. What has been achieved in Egypt is literally a miracle by all standards. Suffice to say, the infrastructure which all but collapsed has now been totally rebuilt.

[Ahmad] Mr President: Did it emerge from your most recent meeting with an IMF delegation that an understanding is likely, and has the IMF shown readiness to accomodate Egypt's stand on gradual economic reforms?

The president: I think the IMF now fully understands Egypt's viewpoint, since we said to them in no uncertain terms: What is the point of beginning economic reforms beyond the capacity of the Egyptians and then backtracking?

[Ahmad] So why have they thus far failed to accomodate us, and why is the IMF still holding back $800 million that was to have been devoted to financing energy projects and stipulating that the electricity tariffs first be raised?

The president: You know that they are not to be rushed. With a little bit of patience and a lot of political effort it should be possible to iron out all of these problems. As for energy, I think that the big electricity consumers must be correspondingly charged. Even after the recent price increases, Egypt's electricity rates are still approximately 40 percent of the world level. While we do not want to squeeze the less well-to-do, some of whom are middle class, consumers of 3 to 4 thousand kwt per month must take a further increase in energy prices. The IMF asks how we are to pay off debts for energy projects when the rates are 40 percent of the world prices.

[Ahmad] Mr President: Do you believe that the problems raised with the IMF and the World Bank require another round of talks like those you held to persuade the European countries before the Paris meeting?

The president: I will hold these talks if they are necessary because there should be no hesitation when we deal with the country's interests, although I get very tired of such brief visits. But what can we do if certain circumstances surprise us from time to time with problems that burden the budget? As I said, as soon as we prepared this year's budget, the world prices of wheat, oil, sugar, and other foodstuffs increased. This means that the treasury will bear a new financial burden that may amount to 1.5 billion pounds to cover the difference in these prices in addition to another $400 million to be allocated to the power station agreements so that Egypt is not affected much if the High Dam power station stops as a result of a low-level flooding this year.

The day before yesterday I heard some good news. Preliminary signs indicate that this year's flooding will be good. We will make sure of this, God willing, next August if rains continue over the Ethiopian plateau at the current average. Any shortage of flooding, and the low price of oil will cause great problems for us. However, one has no choice but to accept God's will no matter how difficult it is. What is important is that one should watch one's conscience and exert one's utmost effort.

The government has been drawing up a great project regarding the production incentives. The project would have dealt with negative and positive aspects to distinguish between the good and the bad. But the increase in the prices of foodstuffs has surprised us and created a new burden for the budget amounting to 1.5 billion pounds. As a result, we had to postpone the incentives project.

Despite this, I thank God and do what I can. The government is also exerting its utmost efforts. We are trying our best to improve the situation regardless of the severe challenges.

[Ahmad] In your speech, you also talked about the possibility of solving the debts problem in light of the Toronto meeting of the most advanced countries, which discussed the possibility of eliminating some of the burdens of the poor countries in Africa. Egypt was not among these countries?

The president: What is important is that they have begun. This is a good gesture. We should not expect the rich countries to relinquish debts on the Third World voluntarily. It is clear that they are searching for a solution, and it is also clear that they recognize that pressure will not be useful, especially since the indebted countries have nothing to pay. What can the rich countries do? Suspending imports from these countries would result in more world recession and more unemployment in the West.

I am optmistic about the Toronto initiative because it means, in the final analysis, that the rich countries have become more realistic in their thought. I know the problem is not an easy one, because it requires more contacts, negotiations, and dialogue. It is not easy for these countries to relinquish these debts overnight.

[Ahmad] Mr President, some believe that it might be in the interest of the indebted countries, including Egypt, to accept the recent offers of turning the government debts into commercial debts due to the fact that the commercial banks might be more capable of dropping part of these debts based on the huge reserves they keep with the risk limits.

The president: I am not in a position to say which option is better than the other, whether to keep debts as government debts or to turn them into commercial debts as happened in some Latin American states. This is the work of economists, who are now studying the merits and demerits of both options. However, the thing that I am concerned about is to cancel the political side of the debts issue if we agreed to turn them into commercial debts. This is because when the issue concerns governments, the indebted side might have among its negotiating cards pressures that spring from political considerations.

However, there is no place for this in dealing with banks. What would be the result if any of the indebted states refused to pay one or two installments? The banks would immediately announce the bankruptcy of this state and would urge the other banks not to deal with it. However, the issue is different with governments. Moreover, there is another question which should have a clear answer. To which limit will the banks' reserves, which are allocated to risk limits, contribute to decreasing the value of debt and its burdens if the debt has become a commercial one? All these problems should have been examined by specialists while comparing the two options.

[Ahmad] If today we complain that the government cannot do everything alone, and of the gap between our needs and production capabilities, then what will the situation be if population growth continues at its current rate?

The president: The government could have done everything when Egypt's population was 20 or 30 million. The Egyptians are now 55 million. Egypt's population is expected to reach 75 million by the year 2000. I expect that prices will continue to increase so long as population growth continues to increase at this current huge rate and so long as our production capabilities are unable to cope with this terrible population growth. The problem is that we have limited resources; the land we live on has the same area it did when Egypt's population was 15 million.

If today we are able to secure our needs despite the hike in world prices at a time when we still depend on imports to secure 60 percent of our needs—if we are able to do so these days—I doubt that we will be able to do so in the future unless we, as a people, take the matter seriously. In order to be able to face challenges in the coming stage, we must increase the cultivated area, double our industrial production, double our exports, and decrease, through self-reliance, our dependence on imports. This is in order to avoid being victims of hard currency pressures. Before all this, we must pay attention to the seriousness of this huge population growth rate.

I asked the television to broadcast the daily increase in population growth and to make a weekly or monthly analysis of the volume and burdens of this increase with the objective of convincing everyone of the fact that family planning is very necessary.

[Ahmad] Mr President: We invited His Reverence the Mufti Shaykh Sayyid Tantawi for the dialogue of the week in AL-MUSAWWAR. He said birth control is allowed, since given increasing burdens, a smaller household will be in a better position to lead a happy life. He said explicitly that Muslims should not boast of their numbers but rather of strength and impregnability. He was equally explicit in saying that there is nothing Islamic in fathering further children and then putting them on the streets without the benefit of due care or pushing them into the labor market while too young. If this is in the tradition of true Islam, there is no reason why the state should not offer inducements for birth control. Why not restrict free education to the third child only?

The president: We are barred by the Constitution, which provides for free education without discrimination or exception. Likewise, we are inhibited by the fact that we see free education as a kind of bonus whereby a balance is struck between a limited income and increasing claims on it. However, I do not rule out legislative intervention. There are committees looking into how far birth control may be legislated short of clashing with the Constitution. Having said that, though, one of the right solutions to the problem of population growth would be a better investment in our manpower by an educational revolution centered on technical disciplines to turn out professionals, craftsmen, and technicians instead of university graduates who are cramping government departments and services.

The bloated bureaucracy has been counterproductive and made inefficient. The government cannot absorb any more personnel. This is not the case regarding technical education in that there is a high demand for professions and specializations in the labor market offering wages far higher than limited salaries. I was once asked by a student: How is it that the government allows a plumber to make 500 Egyptian pounds a month—far higher than a veteran teacher who attended a university? My answer was: It is the society that gives professionals, including plumbers, such high wages.

Their specializations are sought after. It is a question of supply and demand, after all. In the bureaucracy, however, all employees from the lowest to the president of the republic are paid salaries set by the government within its means. Hence, I see technical education as the right vehicle in which to invest our manpower to serve the cause of production. At the same time, this would afford a better standard of living for graduates of technical establishmetns—the training institutes, intermediate technical institutes, and the more advanced ones.

[Ahmad] Mr President: What can the government do about the confidence crisis, which has intensified recently among the hundreds of thousands of depositors, and investment companies which are not paying back the deposits or the interest by using the new law as an excuse? The depositors are demonstrating now every day outside these companies, demanding their money and the company owners use the government's intervention through the new law as a pretext.

The president: Let this be clear to all: The government has warned the depositors more than once against approaching these companies. It also drew attention to the necessity of being careful in dealing with them. For a while now, we have had the feeling that things in most of these companies were not right.

However, we preferred not to interfere and chose to issue many warnings through the Central Bank. In reality, the government did not interfere directly until things reached a dangerous stage in some of these companies: family fights, police reports, sudden and surprising announcement of decisions to merge two companies together, announcements a couple of days later of other decisions to annul this merger, accusations of the kidnapping of one of the owners of these companies from hospital and forcing him to sign a merger statement, and then other announcements saying that the merger statement was blessed by this person or that. This behavior and other things is what revealed the truth to the depositors of what is happening in some of these companies. It is also what has intensified the confidence crisis now among the depositors and what led the government to intervene through the law to protect them.

[Ahmad] The problem now, Mr President, is that some of these companies blame all their problems on the new law to the extent that some people believe that since the government warned from the very beginning against dealing with these companies, it should have waited some time in issuing the law until all the facts were revealed to the depositors.

The president: Had we waited longer, the depositors would not have had the chance to retrieve any of their rights, because things had reached a very dangerous stage and scandals started floating to the surface. Had the government waited any longer, it would have been blamed for covering up what was happening in these companies.

And had the government intervened earlier, it would have given the people the execuse to say that the government's intervention caused the most recent results. When the government hastened to intervene after all these issues surfaced, the people blamed the government for intervening too late, especially since some of the owners of these comapnies had fled abroad with the money of the depositors. Everyone would have blamed the government no matter what happened, but no one thinks of blaming themselves for having deposited their money in these companies, despite the Central Bank's warnings.

I think you know that the law was being prepared for quite a long time under great secrecy. When the muddle increased, I asked the government to hurry up and present the draft law to the People's Assembly.

[Ahmad] Mr President, why did the government refuse to meet with the owners of these companies before issuing the law?

The president: The government met with them and talked with them a great deal.

[Ahmad] Mr President, the government met with some of their counsellors and lawyers, but not with the owners of these companies.

The president: I know that the government has more than once met with a number of these companies' owners and their representatives. However, the core of the issue now is why all this uproar about the law? Why all this exaggerated fear? The law takes nothing from them. It does nothing more than organize the rights of depositors. I have met with the government more than six times while it was preparing the law in order to issue a balanced law protecting the rights of depositors and enabling these companies to make the best investment of their revenues.

Eventually, the law contains their major points. The first organizes the deposit of funds at domestic and foreign banks so that everyone knows where these funds are. The second point concerns the need to run projects in accordance with the companies' laws. This means that there should be real general assemblies, not fictitious ones comprising two or three members of a family. The third point organizes the investment field of funds. Here, these companies are not subjected to any restrictions or reservations over the investment of their funds in any agricultural or industrial production projects.

I ask all Egyptians if they are satisfied with some of these companies' monopolization of many commodities, beginning with small passenger cars which they purchase from the market until they disappear, and then they sell these cars in installments reaching nearly twice as much as a car's price. Is this the silent partnership which they say is part of Islamic laws, or is it monopolization exploiting the needs of people?

I tell the owners of these companies that production investment spheres are open for their activities without restrictions or reservations. However, regrettably, most of their activity is still directed to butcheries and jewellers, or to speculation over commodities by holding them to raise their prices at the appropriate time. Are these the projects in which the billions of dollars they have collected from depositors are invested?

[Ahmad] Mr President, some of them did invest their funds in important production projects.

The president: We encourage and support those people. However, these projects must be run on sound bases which gaurantee depositors' rights. The only thing we did was apply the share-holding companies law on these companies so as to guarantee sound management and genuine general assemblies at which depositors participate.

[Ahmad] Mr President, in your last speech, why did you choose the style of appealing to the people in charge of these companies?

The president: I appealed to them because they are Egyptian citiziens, after all. I appealed to them to invest in Egypt. There are many projects of the development plan in which they could invest, instead of losing the depositors' money in foreign speculation or in not very well studied projects. This is what happened recently when one of the people in charge of these companies decided to start an airline company and actually bought five planes. I was very happy when I heard this news because the addition of five planes to the air transport capacity of Egypt is undoubtedly a very important addition. Unfortunately, however, we found out that the acquired planes were semi-used. They needed huge hangars, maintenance crews, crews for the hangars, in addition to sales departments and offices abroad. How could an air transport company exist without all that? How could we allow such planes to operate without the the civil aviation committees' decisions on whether they are safe or not?

[Ahmad] Mr President, we are asking the private sector to increase its contribution to the second development plan up to financing 50 percent of the projects. Mr President, to what extent is the atmosphere in Egypt right for the private sector to carry such a huge burden despite the problems it still faces everywhere?

The president: I think the private sector is in better shape than it was 2 or 3 years ago. We have removed many obstacles and we are still working toward surmounting all obstacles which stand in the way of providing an atmosphere in which the capabilities and resources of this sector will grow without limits or intentional restrictions.

My proof on this is the issue of export. Two years ago, the obstacles were huge and made it impossible for use to hope for an actual increase in our exports, especially in the private sector. The source would take his goods to the

airport, but would return disappointed after becoming dizzy from a vicious circle of futile measures. This year exports have increased by over 100 percent because we relaxed measures and simplified matters.

In the field of investment, we have introduced many facilities which were not present before. I would like to add that the government is confronting any problem it discovers with immediate solutions. It is also busy at the moment issuing a unified law which includes all the legislation concerning investment in order to do away with all contradictions.

Some still complain of bureaucracy, but we are determined to remove all restrictions that prevent creating the most appropriate circumstances for serious investment in Egypt.

On the other hand, we cannot rule out problems and tricks stemming from investors who are not serious.

Here's an example: An investor says that he is starting a company with $50 million capital and that he will be importing equipment from abroad worth $30 million. When the responsible sides examine the value of this equipment, they discover that its value, acording to its prices abroad, does not exceed $5 million. He wants to assess it at 6 times its value so as to claim that he brought $30 million into Egypt for the project. Such an investor is not serious. When he is discovered, he finds no way out other than blaming things on bureaucratic obstacles to investment in Egypt.

On the other hand, there are honest and serious investors whose industries and businesses are flourishing, nay, they have reached a level of quality equal to—if not better than—similar foreign products. There are serious investors in clothes production, building materials' production, and many other fields with which the new cities and societies are full to the brim.

I realize that some investors in certain fields are still facing some obstacles, such as egg and chicken producers. Their problem is that they are still waiting for the government's help in importing fodder, facilitating marketing, and building warehouses and slaughterhouses.

We asked them over and over again to start unions and cooperative societies amongst themselves which could carry these burdens instead of waiting for the government or depending on middlemen who raise the price of fodder or lower the market price of chicken.

[Ahmad] Mr President, it seems the most serious problem faced by the private investment sector is bank debts, which have doubled due to the increase in the exchange rate of the dollar, in addition to the banks' policy of maintaining a high credit ceiling. Owners of several investment projects have sold their projects to fund investment companies due to their inability to cope with the bank debts and credit ceilings.

The president: I asked the government some time ago to find a quick solution to these problems by rescheduling the debts of these projects and finding suitable credit facilities which would stimulate the production of these projects. If the government itself has asked international financing firms to reschedule its debts, then it is only natural for the private investment sector to also ask for the rescheduling of its debts according to its circumstances and conditions. I believe the government has indeed begun to change the attitudes of the companies. At any rate, I will ask Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi just now if measures are being carried out or are still under study.

Observation: The president asked the director of his office to get Dr 'Atif Sidqi on the telephone, and the following conversation took place within minutes. I asked the president's permission to publish the conversation.

The president: Dr 'Atif, what is the latest on our agreement to reschedule the debts of the private sector companies, have matters entered the implementation stage?

The prime minister....

The president: I know the Al-'Amiriyah problem required an enormous effort. I am glad you were able to settle it this way. There will be a holding company and the debts will be transferred to its name to enable the productive project to continue its work without being encumbered by debts. So what is left is to do the same with the private sector projects.

The prime minister:....

The president: I know the Al-'Amiriyah problem was very complicated. The main thing is to begin with rescheduling the debts of private sector investment companies. If the banks have any reservation, why should we not then hold a joint meeting of the competent ministers and the bank directors. The bank directors should appreciate the circumstances of these projects and not ask the impossible, especially since the banks will not benefit if some of these companies declare bankruptcy.

The prime minister:....

The president: Yes, I will attend such a meeting. Its agenda should include a full report from the data bank on the status of these troubled projects since we are thinking of tackling each according to its own circumstances and conditions. The main thing is to agree with the bank directors at this meeting on the general outlines of a solution.

The prime minister:...

The president: Yes, we can also discuss at the meeting the poultry farmers' problems with the banks. I have no objection to holding the meeting immediately after the 'Id holiday.

[Ahmad] Mr President, the Al-'Amiriyah project embodies the mistake of getting involved in joint investment projects which cost the state and public sector enormous losses. That requires a complete reexamination and a comprehensive review of the situation of such projects.

The president: That is also confirmed by what happened recently in the Al-Salam Hospital. The project's capital does not exceed 20 million pounds, while its loans are almost 200 million pounds. How is that? There was a rush on joint investment projects during 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1980. Regrettably, most of the projects established lacked good intentions and a serious desire for serious work. 'Atif Sidqi's government has a complete file on the situation of these projects. It is one of a thousand files on a thousand similar problems that did not receive any attention previously.

In any case, we now refuse to enter into joint investment projects with the public sector except within the narrowest scope possible, and when we are confident that joint investment with the public sector will lead to the introduction of new technological methods that contribute toward the development of our industries.

[Ahmad] Mr President, many people believe that the climate was favorable for a positive dialogue between the NDP and the opposition parties, had it not been for the manner in which the law on local council elections was issued. If the government had strong reasons for changing its mind on the idea of independent candidates so that certain extremist elements will not infiltrate parliament, why did not the NDP try to convince the opposition parties of their justifications? Perhaps the two sides could have agreed on a better formula for the law, a formula that retains the idea of independent candidates while at the same time preventing the infiltration of extremists?

The president: I do not think it was possible, in the present circumstances, for the law to have been issued in a better form. That is because the opposition parties do not yet realize that there are national interests which should be above any party differences. Undoubtedly, foremost among such national interests is the protection of Egypt's security and stability from groups whose real stand on democracy we all know. Regrettably, previous events have proved the contrary of what you are saying now. We expected the matter to become open to outbiddings regardless of the public interest. I am not prepared to accept such a kind of outbidding in a serious issue that affects Egypt's security and stability.

[Ahmad] But, Mr President, you were ready to accept the idea of single ticket elections.

The president: I am still convinced that single ticket elections are the best for many reasons. The time will come to apply this system. Everybody knows that there are people in Egypt now who are ready to spend large sums of money to make a number of those extremists reach the parliament.

I expected everbody to understand the circumstances and difficulties. Instead of understanding the existent dangers, people began to shout and brag.

You are talking about a suitable atmosphere for an objective dialogue between the government and the opposition. Can the opposition, within the framework of this objective atmosphere, place a condition for the dialogue, even before it starts, such as the NDP should abandon the emergency law? Under what democratic norms can the opposition minority dictate its will on the ruling majority? What does this mean? Everybody knows that the law does not aim at encroaching on any of the political rights of any individual or party which respects legitimacy and law.

The emergency law does not give the government prestige nor does it protect the president; it protects Egypt from real threats. All of us see these threats and know their sources and dangers. Some people, however, still insist on disregarding these threats despite the fact that they can destroy everything.

I would like to say to all parties that protect Egypt that security and stability is part of the president's tasks if not the first duty. People will come and ask me if I do not carry out my duty or if I risk the country's security to satisfy some of the opposition parties' men without taking into consideration the security of 50 million Egyptians who need stability to confront difficult challenges.

I would like to ask today: Where were those people during the Central Security events? Nobody appeared and nobody said a word. They disappeared. After all, the Central Security events ended and democracy survived not because they defended it but because the common people protected it. I would like to say frankly that had it not been for my deep belief in the usefulness of democracy in Egypt the events of the Central Security would have been the end of this test.

Sometimes I ask myself in view of all this behavior: When will we have real parties which have clear programs, uncompromising ideology, firm commitments to the higher national interests which should be above all party differences, and cadres who are not ready to change their positions from one election season to another? The answer is that we might need a long time. But at the end I become very patient so that such ideas will not be entrenched inside myself.

[Ahmad] But it is the government's responsibility, Mr President, to lay the course for the participation of all the political forces, since we are appealing to everyone's Egyptian national spirit.

The president: I don't think we are closing the door to serious participation. We are simply warning against one-upmanship which does not serve the higher national interests. The doors of participation are all open.

All Egyptian parties without exception can sponsor the interests of their masses at all levels of sound party activity. Such activity builds the party and expands its rank and file. Moreover, such activity is more worthwile than the scores of resounding newspaper articles which contain nothing but cries and defamations.

The parties can help set up local societies to defend consumers' rights against profiteering merchants in every quarter and city. They can also encourage initiatives by those who are in a position to solve many problems in the services sector. The burden is too heavy to be assumed by the government alone. The parties can also set up new communities through agricultural projects carried out by Egyptian youths who are looking for opportunities to prove themselves. They can encourage the establishing of housing societies in which all Egyptian youths can take part to guarantee suitable homes for themselves after graduation.

I ask the parties to speak up and take action. I believe in this way they can entrench themselves in public circles. Cries and insults will not help them much.

[Ahmad] Mr President, should we expect a meeting soon with the opposition party leaders?

The president: When the opposition behaves in a logical and rational manner, nothing would prevent such a meeting. The main thing is not just holding a meeting, but reaching an agreement without the need to resort to one-upmanship over the higher national interests.

[Ahmad] Mr President, permit my impudence in asking you about recent reports in the opposition press that the salary of the president of the republic has been raised.

The president: Those who raised this question did not read the Constitution and understand its provisions. The Constitution clearly stipulates that the president of the republic may get a wage increase only after the expiry of the term of office in which the decision to increase his pay was made. Therefore, the 20 percent increase given to government employees 2 years ago only applied to the president last October; that is when the second term of office began. As for the 15 percent increase which government employees got at the beginning of the current month of July, it will not apply to the president during his present term of office. It will only apply to his successor.

Still, I tell these people who concern themselves with such trivialities that the salary of the president of the Egyptian republic is still within 1,700 pounds. My monthly income is most likely far less than that of an active professional. Such small things don't worry me. I am only sorry for those who concern themselves with an issue that has never worried me.

[Ahmad] In yesterday's speech, you talked about the role of Egyptian intellectuals in enhancing the march of progress. What do you specifically hope for at this stage from the intellectuals?

The president: As I said in my speech, I hope they will deal objectively with Egypt's history in a manner maintaining this homeland's dignity. Many of them do so.

I hope they defend the sound values of the society. I hope that they remain free of the narrow party motives in consolidating national concord around the supreme interests, which ought to be indisputable.

I hope they are aware of the amount of our available resources as well as the volume of our difficult challenges.

Perhaps one of the reasons for my satisfaction is that I believe that the regime's relationship with the Egyptian intellectuals—supporters and opposition alike—proceeds without complications or preconceptions. Many people know that I have constant contacts, maybe undeclared, with many intellectuals from all political forces, without taking into consideration party affiliation. Moreover, I have invited many of them to participate in nongovernmental committees to voice their opinions about some of the problems facing us. In many cases, we obtain good views which help the government.

When I look back to the long and hard march we have accomplished I have the feeling that we could not have achieved that—despite the huge difficulties—without the support of Egyptian intellectuals, toward whom I harbor feelings of brotherhood and respect. Some intellectuals brag. Others believe they can draw attention by extreme rules and views which they voice only to cause an uproar. Those people need not be counted.

[Ahmad] Mr President, expectations have increased about a Cabinet change or reshuffle before next fall.

The president: I have no idea about a Cabinet change or reshuffle at all. When I have such an idea, be sure nobody will know about this matter before it occurs. Most frankly, I am amazed by those who talk about the possibility of a cabinet change or reshuffle every 3 months or so. This differs from the way I view matters. What does it mean to have a minister last 3 or 4 months at his post? This is as if we are telling him that these 3 months could be your opportunity to have your own affairs fixed. Here it becomes dangerous that a minister may mix his work as a minister with fixing his matters after the ministry. The government and ministers are supposed to take their full opportunity to implement the programs they have drawn, unless a serious matter takes place which necessitates emergency intervention. I tell you very clearly, the 'Atif Sidqi government is performing a superhuman job. The man himself is making great efforts, even though he refrains from talking a great deal about his role and efforts.

[Ahmad] Mr President, communicating with the masses is a vital issue that should not be ignored. Nobody is asking the prime minister to exhaust himself and his energy in repeated statements. But it is important to have this communication with the masses from time to time.

The president: I believe he is now busy with organizing important meetings to discuss a number of major problems with some public personalities via television. It is really useful to have that. However, repeated statements without need or justification could be undesirable.

[Ahmad] Don't you think it is in the public interest to draw a clear line between the ministerial post and any private activity which the minister may have engaged in before assuming his post?

The president: The line is drawn. In the early days of Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government, I clearly asked every minister to terminate any direct or indirect commercial links he may have had before taking up his post. I believe that all the ministers are sticking to this rule, despite frequent rumors which often originate from the owners of finance companies who want to defame everyone simply to show that they can do anything in Egypt.

[Ahmad] Mr President, I know I have taken much of your time, but there are still some questions dealing with foreign policy. My first question is: What makes us accept mediation in the Tabah issue when the matter is going through its final stages in international arbitration?

The president: The arbitration is following its normal course. If the Americans think that through their mediation we can reach a solution outside the framework of arbitration, then they also know that we cannot accept mediation in the question of sovereignty over Egyptian territory. This is because there can be no mediation, or dispute, or joking on the question of sovereignty over the land. The Israelis' attempt to obtain new rights under the claims of facilitating passage to Tabah within the context of a new treaty is one of the impossibilities. If the matter concerns regulating their entry into and exit from the Tabah hotel, this can be organized through a consular arrangement as is the case in all parts of the world. As for the agreement, it is rejected outright. If the mediation concerns the fate of the hotel, we have already expressed our desire to buy the hotel. But we refuse to share it, because it stands on Egyptian territory.

There is no fear, therefore, that the Americans might try to intervene through mediation while the arbitration is entering its final stages. Nobody can take anything from us against our own wish. Our principles are declared and known to all sides.

[Ahmad] Mr President, it seems one of the direct effects of the Palestinian uprising is the Israelis' inclination toward further radicalism. Current speculations are: The coming elections in Israel would result, at best, in the return of the present Likud-Labor coalition to power once again. In view of the present radical atmosphere prevailing in Israel, is there any hope of convening the international conference?

The president: What is more serious than this situation is the failure of the Arabs to agree on a single formula for the international conference. And what is more dangerous than Arab disagreement is the failure of the seven Palestinian factions to agree on this. Frankly, their lack of agreement on the international conference formula will make it difficult for us to speak about any hope of convening this conference. If the Palestinians want the international conference to be conditional on the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, they must announce their viewpoint to the world clearly and without ambiguity so everyone will know that there is a single Palestinian voice speaking in the name of the cause.

What I fear most now is Israel's announcement of its agreement to the international conference, although that is a remote possibility due to the election campaign disputes in Israel. But it would indeed be both regretful and ludicrous if the Israelis were to announce their agreement to this conference while the Arabs and the Palestinians disagree among themselves.

As I said in my speech, I know that 'Arafat is the most moderate Palestinian leader who is aware of the dimensions of these problems. But the problem is that the others are placing cogs in the wheels. We have repeatedly advised them to agree to a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation so we can regain the land first, then they can agree on the question of the future of the land within an inter-Arab context. But they insist on a separate Palestinian delegation. Meanwhile, Israel refuses and the situation has remained where it is while the days and months pass by.

[Ahmad] Mr President, a short while ago you were talking with 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid about a projected visit by Richard Murphy to Cairo or Amman. What new thing could Murphy be bringing in his forthcoming visit?

The president: Apparently the Americans want to hear our views on the possibility of convening a meeting between them and some Palestinians within and outside the occupied territory. They propose Cairo or Amman as a venue for the meeting.

I have asked 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to contact Amman immediately so that there will be no room for differences between Cairo and Amman on any of the issues that are raised. If Amman agrees to be a venue for the meeting then that is fine. However, if King Husayn finds there are reasons that prevent convening the meeting in Jordan then we will be prepared, in agreement with him, to host the meeting in Cairo.

[Ahmad] Mr President, what do the Americans mean by the Palestinians outside?

The president: The Palestinians outside are members of the PLO but do not live within the occupied territory. I think the Americans are now prepared to sit down with some Palestinian figures who are not prominent in the PLO leadership.

[Ahmad] Mr President, do you still refuse to meet with Shamir?

The president: I will be prepared to meet with Shamir if he has something new to say, if he should declare a positive plan toward convening the international conference without preconditions that prevent the convening of the conference. That is my condition for meeting with Shamir. There is absolutely no point whatsoever for us to meet without prior agreement on basic points which we develop and announce. We refuse to meet merely to exchange views. That means that I will have to meet him under the limelights and embrace him. I do not embrace anyone unless we are agreed on a clear solution to the issue.

[Ahmad] Mr President, the Americans and the Israelis are raising a hue and cry over the presence of medium-range ground-to-ground missiles in Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and possibly Damascus on the pretext that that will affect Israel's security and stability in the region.

The president: I do not know why the Americans are surprised by the presence of such missiles; they have been present for some time in the Arab countries. Why are they astonished by that when they know that Israel has nuclear missiles—but they do not talk about that. I ask the Americans: Does the fact that an Arab state possesses missiles necessarily mean that such missiles are directed against Israel? Israel possesses missiles of a longer range, and with a nuclear capacity, but wants to impose its tutelage over every Arab state that possesses missiles.

According to some reports Al-Qadhdhafi wants to buy long-range missiles from China. The Iranians also have a number of medium-range missiles. Is Egypt required to stand and watch while everyone acquires such missiles?

We do not manufacture missiles to hit Tehran, Libya, or anywhere else for we have no intentions of aggression or war. We merely defend our border. Caution means that we do not remain spectators when some possess what is more serious than conventional medium-range missiles.

We do not have hostile intentions against anyone. We have no intentions to launch war on anyone for we are advocates of peace. We are sure that wars did not and will not resolve any of the existing disputes. Reasonable and acceptable solutions to disputes are found at the negotiating table. With all its might the United States found no alternative to sitting down with the Vietnamese after a destructive and protracted war. The African Frontline States and South Africa have both concluded that wisdom requires all the parties to sit at the negotiating table. When the Africans asked to meet with South Africa in Cairo to search for a peaceful solution to the problem of South Africa and Namibia, I contacted the OAU chairman and then I contacted the leaders of several African Frontline States. I contacted Washington and Moscow. They all warmly welcomed the idea of convening such a meeting in Egypt so as to help to ease tension in southern Africa and to achieve a solution acceptable to all sides.

[Ahmad] Mr President, it seems that President al-Qadhdhafi is determined to practice some of the 'perestroyka' policy.

He announced his intention to relax the travel restrictions on Libyans travelling abroad and his readiness to accept the return of some of the opposition and to give the private sector some elbow room.

The president: President al-Qadhdhafi will succeed if he is honest. We hope from the bottom of our hearts that the Libyan people will find some breathing space and enjoy democracy and the supremacy of law. We do not demand anything of the colonel other than good neighborliness.

[Ahmad] Mr President: What is new in our relations with Algeria? Some people are asking: Why was Egypt cautious about its foreign minister's travel to Algeria? And, had the Algerians proposed announcing the restoration of relations between the two countries during this visit?

The president: There is nothing new in our position with Algeria. What became clear to us finally was that the Algerians wanted our foreign minister so that he would give them new reasons to convince Algeria to restore its relations with Egypt so that Algeria would be able to discuss the issue openly with Libya and Syria. Who would accept that?

I objected to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's visit to Algeria, despite the fact that the Algerians said that the visit's objective was to restore relations, because I realized that there was a pre-condition to the restoration of relations. I objected to the visit also because I doubted that Algeria would restore relations even if the foreign minister traveled there. My expectations came true.

We do not want anything from Algeria, Libya, or Syria, although personally I respect Presidents al-Asad and Chadli Benjedid despite what is issued by the two governments.

[Ahmad] Mr President, are you still averse to the topic of Egypt's return to the Arab League?

The president: Egypt will not go except with dignity. We are not panting after attending any summit whether emergency or ordinary.

[Ahmad] Mr President, do you believe that Iran's decision to stop the war with Iraq will prepare the atmosphere for direct talks between Cairo and Tehran in order to restore Arab-Persian relations?

The president: We have to wait and not rush matters until we are sure of their honest intentions. On our part, there is nothing that prevents talks between Cairo and Tehran if it is proven that their intentions are honest and if Iran respects the principle that affirms the inadmissibility of one country's interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

[Ahmad] Mr President, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's visit to the Soviet capital resulted in more developments in the good relations between Moscow and Cairo. There are many expectations that these good relations will be crowned by President Mubarak's visit to Moscow at the beginning of next year.

The president: Our relations with Moscow are very good. There is nothing which prevents a meeting with Gorbachev, whom I wish success in his new policy which aims to improve Soviet life. I am following these developments and we blessed them because they represent a factor of renovation and stimulation of Soviet life in its various economic and democratic aspects. I would like to say here, although there is no agreement on such a visit, what is strange about my meeting Gorbachev? The prime minister of a country such as India, which has strong ties with USSR, was not prevented from visiting Washington. Rajiv Gandhi visited Washington. The Soviets and the Americans have gone beyond the old detente in their new relations. Relations between them are progressing day by day. Their agreement is clear and firm over many issues, among which is the necessity of solving regional problems through understanding and negotiation. Therefore, I do not think that it is a senstive issue if I meet with Gorbachev.

[Ahmad] Mr President, to what extent have our relations with Washington been affected by recent reports on Egypt's attempt to obtain some strategic material?

The president: The matter is very simple. The entire issue is connected with no more than 20 carbon composite materials used in new industries. We did not steal the Americans' technology. We did not spy on their institutions and we did not steal their documents. We did not do what others have done, and yet the U.S. press raised a big furor over a simple issue. The carbon composite materials are sold on the U.S. market. However, it appears their export from the United States is banned. That is the whole issue. I do not believe it can adversely affect our relations.

[Ahmad] Mr President, there is anxiety in the Arab world over the possible success of Democratic candidate Dukakis, particularly following the views he announced on his intention to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The president: If Dukakis has expressed a view on the Palestine question that we reject, I believe that is part of the election campaign to win Jewish votes. Definitely the stand of Dukakis the presidential candidate will be different from the stand of Dukakis the president if he should succeed in the forthcoming elections, for he whose hands are in water is not the same as he whose hands are in the fire. I do not believe Dukakis is much different from previous candidates who made big promises during their election campaign but were forced by facts to deal with reality in a different manner.

[Ahmad] Mr President, there has been speculation you will visit China in the fall. China is a power whose role in Middle East affairs is growing.

The president: The Chinese invited me 2 years ago. However, I have not yet arranged any program for the visit so far because my priority now is to continue efforts to solve Egypt's problems with the IMF and to deal with the economic problem.

[Ahmad] Mr President, thank you for the time you have given to AL-MUSAWWAR. I am very sorry to have taken your time despite your heavy burdens and numerous preoccupations.

Morocco

King Interviewed on Relations With Algeria

PM0408090288 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Aug 88 pp 1,4-5

[Interview with King Hassan II by Andre Fontaine and Jacques Amalric in Skhirat—date not given]

[Excerpts] Skhirat—[Interviewer] Your Majesty, there has been a great deal of talk about the Maghreb since the rapprochement between Morocco and Algeria which was demonstrated by your solemn visit to Algiers during the Arab summit in June. How do you explain this rapprochement?

[Hassan] There are times of stagnation and times of growth in history. European, Euro-African, Arab, and Islamic circumstances meant that we were in a period of growth, of fruitful growth. This need for fruitfulness in history made itself felt, as it has done numerous times in mankind's history. Perhaps in 5 or 6 years' time we will be better able to explain what happened. For the time being, all I can tell you is that there was a meeting of minds, a phenomenon about which we learned in philosophy classes: At the same time, in the same century, the same discovery was made by three or four people in different countries. All that, plus the need to return to a calm situation and to regional rather than national responsibility ensured that the fruit ripened and that the Algiers summit took place.

[Interviewer] What triggered this change in the three or four people to whom you refer?

[Hassan] We must look back a little. Everybody thinks that Morocco broke off relations with Algeria over Algiers' decision to recognize the famous SDAR. I am not one of those who clings to secondary issues and forgets the main point. If I was going to break off relations on that issue, I would have done so as soon as the Polisario emerged, before the SDAR was founded. I ask all LE MONDE readers, be they Moroccan or Algerian, to immediately forget what I am about to say. But history is history. We broke off relations because 45,000 Moroccans were expelled from Algeria in inhumane conditions. (Footnote 1) (in 1976)

Women who had just had caesarean operations, people with broken legs, and people whose artificial limbs had been removed.... All those people were expelled. I do not know what happened to their property or their dignity: husbands and wives, brothers and sisters were separated, and one fine morning we found we had 45,000 Moroccans who had lived in Algeria for decades, not to say generations. That is why we broke off relations. It was not because of the SDAR.

When President Chadli Bendjedid sent me Mr Messaadia, his envoy, to invite me to the Algiers summit, I merely returned the answer which he gave to my messenger who went to invite him to the Casablanca summit. If I am not mistaken, he told Mr Guedira who I sent to invite him: "Mr Guedira, I have been punished by Morocco, we do not have relations. It is impossible for me to come to Casablanca, but Algeria will be represented." I gave Mr Messaadia the same reply: "Tell the president that, like him, I am deprived and punished by Algeria until we have resumed our relations."

And I think there was a favorable conjunction of the stars and a meeting of minds which meant that we both decided to resume our relations; the rest happened through a form of maieutics. We realized that the Arab cause required solidarity among a number of Arab groups to form community solidarity. That is how it all happened, extremely quickly; people on the outside may say too quickly, but we Maghrebis say: "Very quickly, a little late but very quickly."

[Interviewer] To what extent did Algeria's internal problems play a role in this rapprochement?

[Hassan] Frankly, I do not see any problems which are specific to Algeria, because we too have experienced problems for the past 4 years. We have had 3 years of drought and we are in a difficult financial situation. This too may be one of those evils from which good can come. Perhaps we thought instinctively, without consultation, that we had to come closer together to impart to each other some of the warmth necessary to our requirements.

[Interviewer] There are now signs of detente in many regional conflicts. This is true in Cambodia, Angola, and so forth. Can Algerian-Moroccan detente be linked with this or is it a different phenomenon?

[Hassan] As a Moroccan and a Maghrebi, I am tempted to tell you that we have always thought and dreamed of the Arab Maghreb. Of course, the historian may say that, after the meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev, we said: "Why be the scoundrels of history? Let us behave like mature men and fall into line." Perhaps. I can tell you that I did not feel that, nor did I sense that feeling in President Chadli Bendjedid, Mauritanian President Ould Taya, Tunisian President Ben Ali, or Libya's Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. We did not feel any constraint from the international environment. An opportunity arose and we seized it.

[Interviewer] Was the prospect of the big European market in 1993 [as published] one of the reasons which prompted the Maghreb to try to be more united?

[Hassan] It certainly gave a lead, but we did not say one, two, three, four, Europe in 1992.... We did not do that. It may have been an unconscious influence. But this surfeit of meetings and reconciliations merely taught us a lesson, namely that we had been naughty boys: It was up to us not to misbehave again. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Is it in this framework of the Maghreb community or by an agreement with Algeria that you envisage a solution to the Saharan issue?

[Hassan] I have always thought that the Saharan affair could and should be settled in the historical Moroccan-Algerian framework. President Boumediene told me several years ago: "You must understand"—and I did not find his argument very logical, but never mind—"you must understand, I was not able to remain silent when the Vietnamese people demanded self-determination. The Saharan people, who live beside me are also demanding self-determination; if I did not support them I would be abandoning my principles." I smiled, but I understood perfectly.

At the beginning, I did not agree with self-determination by referendum. Subsequently, I thought: "Why not?" And when I proposed a referendum in Nairobi (Footnote 2) (At the OAU summit held in 1987), I was not given the warm reception I expected from some people. But we and Algeria subsequently realized that we had never disagreed, because Algeria has always said that it had no claim to the Sahara, and that it was demanding a referendum on self-determination because of its national revolutionary creed. We rallied to that idea and I do not see what could be detrimental to Morocco or Algeria in this context. The only thing which would be detrimental to them both, and I know what I am saying, is for the Saharans to say: "We want to be independent." I can assure you that that would be a very serious problem which Morocco and Algeria would have to examine together.

Do you want to know why? I will tell you: the Sahel tribes are rather like the geology of the Sahel: It has the same geological substratum as far as the Persian Gulf. And from Tunisia it has almost the same human substratum

and we see the same tribes, it is just that some are called western tribes and some eastern tribes. There is no doubt that it is a fairly dangerous thing for Algeria and Morocco to imagine that the Saharans could have independence. Not only is independence contagious, but it is stormy before it calms down and becomes serene. How long does this take? God alone knows. That is why I think it would be extremely dangerous for Morocco and Algeria to have 70,000 inhabitants on the right and the left, in the north and the south seeking a fixed point to which they can cling. I am not talking about Mauritania, for which that situation would be even worse, because it has problems in the south with Senegal. But, if that happened, I think we might see a holy alliance formed at the Saharans' expense.

[Interviewer] However, if there is a referendum, will the Saharans be asked whether or not they want independence?

[Hassan] They will naturally be asked that question. I ardently hope that they say they want Morocco.

[Interviewer] There has been talk recently of the possibility of an autonomous Western Sahara within the Kingdom of Morocco. Are you envisaging such a solution?

[Hassan] Yes, very seriously. Since the beginning of my reign, I have always said that I wanted to leave my successor a Morocco modeled on the German Laender. My country is so diverse that I do not want to emasculate it. I like to see things burgeoning on all sides, even if they contain thorns. But if I have to do something for the Sahara, it will not be for the Sahara alone. That is assuming the Saharans say that they want to remain Moroccan, as I am sure they will.

[Interviewer] Are you considering a kind of regionalization of the kingdom?

[Hassan] Yes, and on a much bigger scale than people think. I think that this is the wise course.

[Interviewer] But it will not go as far as a separate "stamp" and "flag" for the Sahara, to which the Algerians at one time referred....

[Hassan] Everything is symbolic in politics.... What do the stamp and flag mean? They are attributes of sovereignty. Having your own currency and flag means everything. It means that I can enlist you, ask you why you have not paid your taxes, and why you have not appeared in court. The flag is everything. Walk around Morocco and you will see that I am the most liberal Moroccan on this Saharan issue. You will see for yourself that Moroccans of all political and social classes refuse to allow this issue to be prejudged.

[Interviewer] In the interview which you gave us in 1984 you said that if Algeria was seeking a solution to save face, you were prepared to do anything. What could save face for Algeria in an affair of this kind?

[Hassan] France has spoiled and indulged Algeria enough to know what it represents. So, the importance which I have attached to Algeria is much greater than that which France attaches to it. I have no ambition to be the only person capable of saving Algeria's face and likely to do so. Algeria's face is too big for a single man to be able to save it. In my view this is a task for two people, for bilateral consultation, and especially for a return to the source which will mean that there is no winner and no loser: You were the first to ask for a referendum, we said no at first, then we said yes, now let the referendum be held, let us act on our joint view and act on it as sincerely as possible. Everybody will ultimately realize that if this Saharan issue is favorably settled, Morocco and Algeria will applaud. If it is settled in an unfavorable way, Morocco and Algeria will both be losers. We will both emerge victorious or we will both be defeated. This is because we will both be faced with an Atlantic coastline of more than 1,000 km. Look at what is happening in Angola. Coasts are very tempting and very dangerous. That is why there can be no winner and no loser.

[Interviewer] What is the state of your relations with Col al-Qadhdhafi?

[Hassan] They are very stormy but very amicable. There is turbulence, as the meterologists say, but it never amounts to much. Relations are good. There is no doubt that he has not forgiven me for having met with Shimon Peres and I have not forgiven him for not forgiving me for shaking Shimon Peres' hand. That is why I said to him before I went to Algiers: "I warn you that I have not yet been absolved of the sin of shaking Shimon Peres' hand. It is up to you to decide whether you are willing to shake my hand."

[Interviewer] Do you talk on the telephone frequently?

[Hassan] Fairly frequently.

[Interviewer] Do you regard Libya as a normal partner in the Maghreb community and do you think that it will play its role?

[Hassan] Not only do I regard it as a normal partner, but it must be admitted that, as far as the Maghreb is concerned, it was Morocco and Libya which had the courage to take the first step toward a really serious union. It is the most serious step which has so far been taken. When you look at the other treaties which have been signed, none of them equals the one we signed with Libya. Circumstances have meant that this treaty has not produced the expected results, but Morocco and Libya nonetheless had the courage to take a major step.

[Interviewer] Do you think that this Moroccan-Libyan agreement was primarily intended to make the Algerians think?

[Hassan] No. I can tell you on my honor that that agreement was not signed with the aim of trapping anybody or forcing anybody to stop and think. I am not a man who uses blackmail and pressure. It was simply

the result of a desire to do something. It was signed in an innocent and virtuous spirit. I have suffered for it to some extent because although Al-Qadhdhafi, my partner, criticizes me for many things, I also have many reasons to criticize him.

[Interviewer] We are in a phase in which people are wondering whether the war between Iran and Iraq is going to end. Do you think it will and if so what repercussions do you think the cease-fire will have?

[Hassan] I do not know what the international analysts think, but there is an aspect of this war which disturbs me: the sudden way in which it started and has ended.

[Interviewer] But this has come after several months of Iranian defeats....

[Hassan] There are sometimes coincidences which have nothing to do with the stars. Those military defeats came when the imam, the infallible Khomeyni, was relieved of his military duties and when that responsibility was given to Rafsanjani. We subsequently had the impression that Rafsanjani did everything necessary to speed up the process of defeat. This shows a gift of clairvoyance which goes beyond imagination. What will happen now? God only knows. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Will the end of the war have a beneficial effect on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or not?

[Hassan] I have no idea. The Palestinian conflict ultimately depends on Israel's attitude. Contrary to what people believe, it does not depend on the Arabs' attitude. There is something that Israel must know: That which Mr Begin called Judea and Samaria are occupied territories. Either he imagined—and his successors imagine—that they will simply appropriate them and acquire some very bad Israelis or they believe that they will some day grant them a kind of autonomy and turn them into very bad neighbors. In either case Israel is wrong. Israel must make a small effort of imagination.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the PLO could encourage it to do so by displaying a conciliatory attitude? After all, we hear several PLO spokesmen saying: "Direct negotiations with the Israelis are necessary." Gorbachev is encouraging Yasir 'Arafat in this direction....

[Hassan] The PLO is authorized by the Arab countries to take whatever initiatives it wants since it is the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative. If the PLO can be accused of anything it is of having failed to move until now. However, whatever it says and does for the Palestinian people's good, it is in principle entirely responsible for what it has decided. Will it or will it not prepare itself properly? Has the time passed or is there still time? I cannot decide.

[Interviewer] Do you believe that the evolution of Soviet-American relations could create a more favorable climate for negotiations on the Near East?

[Hassan] I do not believe so. For both the United States and Russia certain conflicts act as as an alarm: They include Central America and the Near East because these crises are taking place on the borders of the two superpowers. Hence their importance: "Do not forget that I am here, that I exist."

[Interviewer] Do you believe that Gorbachev's apparent idea to have the United Nations perform a major role is a good one?

[Hassan] Mr Gorbachev, whom I do not know and whom I want to get to know (he is someone who improves with acquaintance and whose acquaintance benefits those who meet with him), has realized that the United Nations has been somewhat powerless for several decades. He knows that the United Nations risks being blocked because its budget is not balanced because America has not paid its contribution. Since he has cleverly sabotaged the United Nations and in view of the fact that America is not paying up, how can you believe that Gorbachev really hopes that the United Nations can resolve such problems?

[Interviewer] It was Mr Gorbachev's predecessors, rather, who sabotaged the United Nations. Soviet policy on several points seems to have changed considerably in recent months....

[Hassan] Mr Gorbachev will not help the United Nations unconditionally unless he is on the same wavelength as the United Nations on human rights.

[Interviewer] Do you not believe that the United Nations could provide the Soviet Union with a framework for exerting a major global influence?

[Hassan] Soviet policy is at present pursuing several avenues. First, the new look is in line with Mr Gorbachev's age, but the new look cannot succeed until the old skin has been shed. The events in Armenia and the USSR's Islamic republics will force Gorbachev to create a clean image at home. So he will be investing in these two directions—ridding himself of all superfluous personnel and portraying himself as someone who contributed nothing to the USSR's setbacks. In other words, he wants to make a clean sweep.

[Interviewer] How do you reconcile the Greater Maghreb with your application to join the EEC?

[Hassan] In a few years' time the EEC will be courting us. I say this in all modesty and for several reasons. First, the EEC no longer has a strategic lag and has embraced Spain and Portugal.... Portugal is a promontory, if not a balcony. When you stand on a balcony you can see rather further than usual. When you see new land you always want to see what is happening on the other side. I have submitted Morocco's membership application to the EEC, I stand by it, and will continue to work for it, in the certainty that with every year that passes my desire will be shared by more and more people.

[Interviewer] Do you envisage Morocco's membership in both the Maghrebi community and the EEC?

[Hassan] During the Crusades we always supported our Arab brothers and continued fighting as far as Acre, which did not prevent us from maintaining our relations with Europe. It is a matter of complementariness because Europe itself split in two, to the north and the south of the Mediterranean. There is East Europe and West Europe. I believe that the eastern Mediterranean is polluted. Only the west, both north and south, is still clean and can restore peace to the Mare Nostrum. This cleansing of the polluted Mediterranean can only be carried out by North Africa with the help of western north Mediterranean Europe. This is not a dream but a reality.

[Interviewer] What is Morocco's economic situation?

[Hassan] I have always said that the health enjoyed by Morocco could be the envy of many developing countries. Indeed, despite a military effort that we have sustained unwillingly for 14 years; despite climatic conditions that have very heavily burdened our purchasing power for 4 consecutive years; despite the fact that every year Morocco has constructed new schools, equipped several hospitals, opened thousands of kilometers of roads, and constructed a number of dams—despite all this, foreigners visiting Morocco cannot say there is any kind of poverty here. We have had to endure major economic shocks suffered by everyone. In our case this has resulted in a very major shortage of currency since phosphate prices have fallen whereas those of oil have exceeded $30 a barrel, even when the dollar was at its highest level.

Well, within this economic and financial context, we have had to take a number of measures that have not always been very popular, but that have been accepted with faith and confidence by my people, who have the same affection and respect for me as I have for all my fellow citizens. Thank God, we are reaching the end of the tunnel and our latest negotiations with both the IMF and the World Bank have taken place in a climate of trust. Morocco emerged from them with some points in its favor as well as some encouraging scenarios.

In the decades ahead we must be increasingly vigilant, especially in our agriculture and in mobilizing human energies and using all our water resources as judiciously as possible—and, God knows, they do exist and can be increasingly well exploited. If there is any time in history when my country can really constitute the link between Europe and Africa I believe that this must be proven in the decades ahead. I urge all my fellow countrymen at every level and in every field to reflect horizontally on the Greater Maghreb and vertically on Eurafrica. It is a major challenge—I would say even a historic challenge. I know my Moroccans: They will meet this challenge and in so doing win everyone's approval and respect.

[Interviewer] Do you have a feeling that the fundamentalist faction is currently losing impetus?

[Hassan] As long as there are crazy, ignorant, ambitious people, and agitators, they can destroy anything. Extremist ideology remains a very useful ingredient—a really reliable fuel.

[Interviewer] Do you not perceive a retreat at present?

[Hassan] Yes, because enough is enough. They have gone too far. You must never disarm on this front, however, especially when you are dealing with people's beliefs and faith. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Oil Port Inaugurated

Mohammedia, Aug 2, (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco, flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid, Monday morning inaugurated the first oil port of the country, built in Mohammedia, 30 kms north of Casablanca. The port, which is endowed with large infrastructure facilities and installations, was conceived in a way to ensure ideal conditions to giant tankers, mooring and secure a normal supply of oil and hydrocarbon related products all over the country. The port will also enable to reduce the time ships spend in unloading operations. The time of call which averaged approximately eight days will last 48 hours only. It will also enable the country earn more than 20 million dollars per year in hard currency. [Text] [*LD0308042588 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 2 Aug*]

Sudan

Garang Reportedly Agrees to Talks With Al-Mahdi

PM0408090188 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Message to Mubarak Garang Agrees To Hold Conditional Talks With Al-Mahdi"]

[Text] In the past few days President Mubarak has received a message from John Garang, leader of the rebel movement in southern Sudan, in reply to a recent message from Mubarak urging him to hold talks with Sudanese Government officials to settle the conflict in southern Sudan.

Garang accepted President Mubarak's call for talks in Cairo, any European capital, or the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, but in his message he imposed a condition that the framework for the desired solution include fair distribution of Sudan's national wealth between the north and south with special attention to the problems of the south to promote a permanent solution there.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the Egyptian Government conveyed the contents of Garang's message to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Meanwhile, Egypt continues its diplomatic efforts for agreement on a venue for a meeting between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and John Garang.

Prosecutor Receives Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD0308192188 Tehran IRNA in English 1901 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, August 3, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam met Sudan's prosecutor and secretary-general of People's Islamic Movement Hassan Torabi in Khartoum Wednesday.

In the meeting were discussed the recent developments of the Iraqi imposed war, Iran-Sudan relations, the present condition of the Islamic world, and mutual cooperations.

Enemies of Islam fearing the spread of the Islamic revolution have mobilized all their forces and facilities to distort the Islamic Republic's image, said the Sudanese official.

On Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 and the future prospect of the war, he said he considered the act of acceptance as a positive move in the Islamic world.

Tunisia

Reportage on Libyan Officials' Visits, Messages

Libyan Secretary Visits

LD0208094388 Tripoli JANA in English 0855 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis, Hannibal [August] 2, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Rachid Sfar, speaker of Tunisia's Parliament has met the secretary of the People's Committees Affairs of the General People's Congress (G.P.C.).

G.P.C.'s delegation has attended the meetings of the Destourian Democratic gathering in Tunisia and has been accorded a warm welcome by members of this gathering.

Speaking at this meeting, the delegation has stressed the importance of promoting the brotherly relations among the one Arab people in Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

It reaffirms the role assumed by Tunisia following 7th November and the importance of the unionist steps underway among the Arab Maghreb countries for the establishment of an Arab Maghreb with no borders and as an important step towards achieving the overall Arab unity.

G.P.C. delegation has also held various meetings with Arab delegations attending the above meeting including the delegation of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party, the General People's Congress in Northern Yemen, the Democratic Socialist Party in South Yemen and the Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria and a number of Moroccan parties.

Escheikh Meets Libyan Envoy

LD0208094088 Tripoli JANA in English 0858 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis, Hannibal [Aug] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The representative of Great Al-Jamahiriyah at the Arab League met in Tunis with Mr. Abdelhamid Escheikh the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs.

The two sides have discussed the unionist steps underway between the countries of Arab Maghreb and ways conducive to strengthening and promoting cooperation between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls, Sends Message

LD0208133188 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] President Zine Ben Ali received a telephone call this morning from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

The president also received a message from his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was conveyed to him by Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League in Tunisia, when he was received by the president this morning at the Presidential Palace in Carthage. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi indicated that the message falls within the scope of continuing consultation on issues of common interest between the two brotherly countries. He added that he conveyed to the president the respect and congratulations of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the results of the Democratic Constitutional Rally congress, which stressed the aspirations of 7 November, and showed once again Tunisia's Arab-Islamic identity.

President Receives Algeria's Messaadia

LD3007103488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 July 88

[Text] Today, at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage, President Zine El Abidine received Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee [in Algeria]. He stated that he conveyed greetings to President Ben Ali from his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid, on the occasion of the Democratic Constitutional Rally congress.

The Algerian official added: As is known, consultations and coordination between Tunisia and Algeria are continuing at the bilateral level, and also within the framework of the Maghreb. Maghreb relations are passing through a period of tangible vitality and dynamism, which we hope will be crowned with success. We also wish Tunisia further progress and prosperity.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Reacts to UN Peace Plan

LD3107043388 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Here is the first reaction of the Polisario Front to the future peace plan put forward by the United Nations. The plan provides for a UN-OAU administrative body taking responsibility for the territory during a transitional period. This is an acceptable condition in the event the Moroccan Government continues to reject a direct dialogue, said the Polisario Front in a communique published in Algiers. This being said, the Front recalls its request for a complete withdrawal of troops and an end to Moroccan occupation and administration.

Bahrain

Somali Foreign Minister Arrives in Manama

JN0108094688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 1 Aug (WAKH)—Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Hamud arrived in Manama from Doha today on a visit to Bahrain during a regional tour. Hamud will convey a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre.

Delivers Message to Amir

JN0108133088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1138 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 1 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with developments in the Horn of Africa, current Arab issues, and bilateral relations.

The message was conveyed by Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Hamud when he was received by His Highness Shaykh Mamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, in Manama today.

Kuwait

Somali Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart

LD0308161888 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somalia's minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting the country.

In a statement made to the press and relayed by KUNA, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the Somali minister conveyed a written message to the amir from his brother President Mohamed Siad Barre concerning the situation in northern and southern Somalia and the infighting going on there. He added that the message included Somalia's request for medical assistance and said that it would be met for humanitarian reasons. [passage omitted]

KUNA Inteviews Somali Minister

LD0408094088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT 4 Aug 88

[By Jassem Mattar]

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 4 (KUNA)—Somali State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohamed Ali Hamud Thursday advocated settling problems in the Horn of Africa via dialogue and negotiations.

The minister, in an interview with KUNA, said that Mogadishu believes in that method and has already used it to amend relations with Ethiopia. He hoped, in this respect, that Addis Ababa would execute the agreement signed between the two countries in April this year so as to establish mutual trust.

Hamud said the agreement, a preliminary accord to finding a just and lasting peace to basic problems between the two countries, stipulated the disengagement of forces and withdrawal of each country's troops 15 kilometers back, ending hostile propaganda campaigns and sabotage operations, normalisation of relations and exchange of prisoners. Most of the articles have been implemented, he noted, hoping that Ethiopia will complete application of the rest to establish trust between the two nations.

Asked about his talks with h.h. the amir, h.h. the crown prince and premier and the deputy premier and foreign minister, Hamud said that he delivered a message from President Mohamed Siad Barre to h.h. the amir and held talks on problems in the Horn of Africa and events in that sensitive region in addition to bilateral relations.

The minister lauded the two countries' relations describing them as fraternal and expressed pleasure over the outcome of his meetings.

Asked about the impact of the armed attacks by the opposition national movement on the internal situation in Somalia, Hamud recalled that as of May 27 this year, northern regions of the country were targets of "terrorist attacks launched by terrorist groups that managed to infiltrate a number of areas in those regions leaving behind heavy human and material losses."

The minister affirmed, however, that the Somali troops have been able to restore things to normal and the situation there is calm.

"Each and every citizen has the right to oppose the regime in his country but he has no right to carry arms, kill people and seek to divide his country," the minister said, describing such practices as "high treason".

"There is no national movement but rather a group of terrorists who have fallen in the enemies' hands and have been trained and armed to infiltrate into the republic to combat sabotage," Hamud charged.

Asked to comment on the ongoing negotiatons in the U.N. to end the Iraq-Iran war after Tehran's acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598, Hamud said that "any Arab or Moslem regrets this destructive war that has been going on for a long time to no avail."

He added that Somalia has welcomed Iran's approval of the 598 resolution and hopes that the U.N. secretary general would be successful in finding means of halting

this war. Iran's acceptance of 598 raised new hopes for quickly ending the armed confrontation to rid the Islamic world from that crisis, he elaborated.

Answering a question on his country's relations with the two superpowers, the official, who is currently visiting Kuwait, said that Somalia is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and strongly believes in its doctrines which consequently govern its ties with both the Soviet Union and the United States.

He affirmed that his country offers military facilities to American ships and aircraft similar to any other friendly country but said that there were no American bases in Somalia.

Deal To Buy French Mirages, USSR Arms Reported

PM0308152588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
3 Aug 88 p1

[Jamal 'Inayat report: "Kuwaiti Arms Deal With France for Purchase of 40 Mirage-2000 Aircraft"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Cairo that in the near future Kuwait will conclude a deal with France covering the purchase of 40 Mirage-2000 aircraft valued at U.S. $1.72 billion. The deal will include the purchase of the necessary maintenance equipment as well as the training of Kuwait pilots in France on the aircraft.

The sources believe that the deal is an indication of Kuwaiti efforts to strengthen and develop its air defense capabilities in the wake of Iranian threats and that it also reflects France's desire to fill the gap created by certain restrictions on the sale of arms to the Gulf states.

Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo had earlier confirmed that Kuwait and the Soviet Union did sign a military agreement under which Kuwait will get SAM-8 missiles, armored troop carriers, amphibious vehicles, engineering equipment, ammunition, and arms spare parts.

The sources further confirmed that the agreement also provides for the training of Kuwaitis on these arms, but in the Soviet Union not in Kuwait lest Soviet experts see the U.S. air defense systems Kuwait has received from the United States.

UK Daily Views Arms Deal

PM0208151188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
1 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Soviet Arms to Kuwait Include SAM-8 Missiles and Armored Personnel Carriers"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Soviet-Kuwaiti agreement concerning Kuwait's acquisition of Soviet arms stipulates that the training of Kuwaiti crews in the use of the arms be completed in the Soviet Union, not Kuwait. This reflects Kuwait's desire that the agreement on purchasing arms be purely commercial in nature.

The sources said that the United States informed Kuwait of its fear that Soviet experts' work in Kuwait would enable them to gain access to the U.S. air defense systems which Kuwait has obtained from Washington.

Diplomatic reports in Cairo indicate that Kuwaiti military items purchased from Moscow include SAM-8 missiles, armored personnel carriers, amphibious vehicles, engineering equipment, ammunition, and military spare parts.

Meanwhile, reports from the Egyptian Embassy in Washington say that the United States has submitted proposals to Kuwait to strengthen its air defense system and train Kuwaiti commanders in the latest air defense systems. U.S. experts conducted similar studies on radar systems in Bahrain and the UAE and submitted similar proposals.

The reports added that U.S. Administration officials believe that the USSR's entry into the field of arming the State of Kuwait represents a change in the Gulf situation.

It also represents a challenge to the United States in particular, despite its knowledge that the Kuwaiti leaders are aware of the risks that could be involved in dealing with the Soviet Union—something that is clear in Kuwaiti conditions over the arms deal.

Papers Urge Iran To Accept Direct Talks

LD3007094488 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 30 (KUNA)—Leading Kuwaiti newspapers called on Iran Saturday to demonstrate genuine desire for peace by accepting unconditional face-to-face negotiations with Iraq as the most feasible way to ending their eight-year-old conflict.

"A direct meeting between Iraq and Iran would certainly strengthen and speed up the peace process in the region," commented the daily AL-SIYASAH.

It added that such a meeting will be conducive to wiping out the miseries of the past, provided the Iranian leadership is really sincere in officially accepting peace.

"The question now being asked is: What really prevents the Iranian leadership from starting direct negotiations with Iraq," the paper pointed out.

It noted that Iraq, even at the climax of its military victories repeatedly emphasized its willingness to live in peace and establish good relations with Iran.

The paper emphasized that Iran could benefit from mending its relations with the Arab world, with whom it had lost its friendship.

"We want Iran as a strong neighbor to cooperate with within a vital region that can influence the movement of the world, though before accepting peace Iran, was thinking of arcane and outdated dreams. Forget the past and prevent it from influencing the present and future," the paper said in conclusion.

Another daily, AL-ANBA', said it is Iraq's legitimate right to demand guarantees for just and lasting peace in the Arabian Gulf region, the first such guarantee being direct peace talks with Iran.

It stressed that face-to-face talks are necessary to approving ways to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 ordering peace between the Gulf war beligerents according to the sequence of its operational articles.

It pointed out that direct negotiations would allow the sides to lay the framework of future ties, which should be neighborly, equitable and friendly.

"We don't know why Iranian leaders fear direct talks, but signs indicate that they are after a truce that gives them a breathing space and enables them to rebuild their shattered armed forces with a view to launching fresh aggressions," the paper said.

AL-ANBA' emphasized that Iraq has realized Iran's real intentions, and is exerting itself hard to foil them.

"It is either one of two, peace or war," concluded the paper.

English language daily KUWAIT TIMES commended the recent American gesture about a Soviet role in the peacekeeping structure in the Arabian Gulf.

"The United States has at last come round to seeing what had been pretty obvious for quite some time: that the Soviet Union too has a role in the peacekeeping structure in the Gulf. This is what many observers had been feeling since things began to deteriorate and shipping in the Gulf came to be a target in the Iran-Iraq war," the paper said.

The newspaper added that "there is no longer any exclusive right or responsibility which belongs to the U.S. to run the world or any particular part therefore."

KUWAIT TIMES said once the U.S. recognizes the Soviet role in peacekeeping in the Gulf, peace would be relatively more dependable for the Gulf countries and the U.S. responsibilities less onerous.

Concluding the paper said: "Had the U.S. seen this truth earlier, it would certainly have been vastly better, but there is no denying that this U.S. gesture is wise and would find a wide welcome awaiting it."

PDRY

Al-'Attas Receives Outgoing CSSR Envoy

EA0408002788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Peoples Council, met at his office this morning Comrade Jan Martinek, ambassador of the Republic of Czechoslovakia in Aden, on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty.

They discussed relations between the two countries and the brother chairman of the Presidium expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of the ambassador to develop and strengthen these relations. He wished him success in his future duties.

For his part, the comrade ambassador expressed thanks and appreciation for the care accorded to him throughout his term of office. He wished further progress and prosperity for the Yemeni people.

Brother (Jafar ba Salih), director of the Office of the Chairman of the Presidium, was also present at the meeting.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Syria

EA0208094788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 AUG 88

[Text] A 5-year protocol for cooperation was signed at the Presidium Chamber this evening between the PDRY's Supreme People's Council and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Dr Sa'd 'Abd al-Khayr al-Nawban, member of the Presidium and chairman of the Council's Cultural and Social Committee, signed for the Yemeni side while Brother Muhammad Sa'd, member of the Presidium Bureau and secretary of the Council signed for the Syrian side.

Articles of the protocol include the exchange of parliamentary visits for familiarization with parliamentary experience in the two brotherly countries—in order to strengthen fraternal relations between the two councils, and the coordination of joint efforts in parliamentary forums and conferences in order to serve our Arab peoples' causes and peace and progress worldwide. The articles also include organizing study courses, familiarization with historical and national landmarks, and social achievements.

Following the signing of the protocol, the two sides exchanged cordial speeches which expressed gratitude for the development of relations between the parliamentarians of the two brotherly countries in the interest of their common objectives and struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and colonialism.

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Syria

LD0308103288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, returned to Aden this evening following a cordial and official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in response to an invitation by his brother Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

On arrival Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali told ANA that during his visit he had delivered a letter from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas. He added that he had held several meetings with Brothers 'Abdullah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary-general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th party; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice-president; and Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister.

During the meetings they emphasized the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and the importance of developing and strengthening those relations. In addition they discussed the new developments in the Arab and international arenas and the importance of the unity of the Arab ranks and of a common stand in the struggle against the imperialist and Zionist designs in the area. They also discussed the importance of the support of the Palestinian Arab people in their courageous uprising and in their right to self-determination and establishment of their own independent state.

He also said that his present visit to Syria was in accordance with the fraternal, developed relations between the two countries and with the desire of both the PDRY and the Syrian Arab Republic to develop and strengthen relations. He also expressed gratification at the results of the visit.

On departure from Damascus Airport, Brother al-Dali was seen off by Syrian Foreign Minister Brother Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior officials from the Syrian Foreign Ministry, Brother Muhammad 'Abduh Sudfah, the PDRY ambassador to Syria, and our embassy's staff.

Saudi Arabia

Diplomatic Ties With USSR Expected in October

LD0408093788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0911 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 4 (KUNA)—Diplomatic relations are expected to be established during the coming few days between the Soviet Union and Bahrain, press reports said Thursday.

According to the reports, the Foreign Ministries of the Soviet Union and Bahrain are curently engaged in discussions to determine the day of announcing the joint step.

The daily AL-ITTIHAD published here today quoted Soviet sources as saying that restoration of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia will be announced next October to coincide with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Riyadh and opening of the first airline service of the Soviet Union Aeroflot between Moscow and Jiddah in the same month.

Yemen Arab Republic

Al-Iryani Interviewed on Ties With North Yemen

PM0208144388 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 1 Aug 88 pp 17, 18

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani by Hamidah Na'na' in Sanaa; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Na'na'] Anyone following the history of your relations with the southern part [of Yemen] would find it confusing: War and then unity—nothing in between. You deployed armies and then concluded a unionist agreement. What is going on, and how did you and the southern part manage to reach the recent Sanaa agreement?

[Al-Iryani] (Laughing and approving of my remarks) There is a Yemeni proverb that says: Worsening crises eventually ease. This proverb applies to the Yemenis' daily life. It has a meaning in reality. True, the past stage witnessed severe tension in Yemeni-Yemeni relations. But undoubtedly both sides wanted to extricate themselves from that crisis.

There was escalation, but it was unintentional—it was imposed on us. The escalation did in fact enable us to reach, in my opinion, the first concrete and tangible agreement between the two parts [of Yemen] after the 13 January 1986 incidents.

[Na'na'] I have read the clauses of the agreement between you and the brothers in the south. The agreement actually seems to have been drafted in a positive spirit. But how do you explain the fact that the leadership in the southern part had at a previous summit made the condition that the unity constitution achieved during the rule of [former] President 'Ali Nasir be presented within a period of 5 years, yet it is today accepting all procedures stipulated in the agreement and ready to implement them immediately?

[Al-Iryani] What concerns us is the positiveness of the decision. We do not want to know what is behind it. The recent agreement and subsequent measures are positive. We thank our brothers in the south for their interaction. We support them.

[Na'na'] I followed the preparations for opening the borders between the two parts. I also noted the positive spirit and optimism prevailing among the Yemeni people regarding this step, including the opposition in the PDRY. Was movement between the two parts very difficult in the past, and how?

[Al-Iryani] Movement between the two parts was very complicated after the 13 January incidents. Prior permission from both Interior Ministries was needed. But today the citizens can cross the borders using only their identity cards without answering to the authorities. The opening of the borders is a tangible thing. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Are administrative procedures similar in both parts with regard to citizens' movements?

[Al-Iryani] The procedures maintained by the brothers in the south are different to some extent. This concerns them. In the north, procedures are both simple and clear. The citizen in the north can go to any crossing point, show his identity card, and then cross to the other side. He is provided with a document to prove that he crossed the borders [legally]; this can be shown when necessary.

[Na'na'] There was a previous agreement regarding the Yemenis' movement between the two parts. It was part of a comprehensive agreement concerning unionist measures which was crowned with the drafting of the constitution by the special ministerial committee.

[Al-Iryani] This is true. But the agreement was hampered after the January incidents. The recent agreement is more binding, clear, and accurate than the previous one.

[Na'na'] What about the common area between the two parts? And what formula will be adopted for joint investment? Are there specific conditions for this investment? For instance, do the foreign companies exploring [for oil] have to be of a particular nationality?

[Al-Iryani] The agreement between us and the brothers in the south stipulates that the investment area is a common area. That is why a new company will be established for this purpose. It will have its own board of directors. The appropriate two ministers have reached a suitable legal formula. The company will invite international bids. Investors offering better conditions will be given precedence. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Can we be optimistic and say that the war between the two parts has been defused and that the agreement you have reached with the brothers in the south has eliminated the possibility of a clash presently or in the future?

[AL-Iryani] Certainly. Yes, you can be optimistic.

[Na'na'] We are accustomed to surprises in this region of the Arab world. Are there any new surprises?

[Al-Iryani] We might surprise you with a new step toward unity, such as convening the special ministerial committee to set a date for presenting the constitution of the united state to the people. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] There is clamor about a very important issue concerning your relations with your neighbors in the kingdom, namely the issue of drawing the borders, especially with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. Is this issue being raised? And has the Saudi Arabian Kingdom asked to draw the borders?

[Al-Iryani] First, there are two situations in Yemen in connection with the borders: There was an agreement between Imam Yahya and King 'Abd al-'Aziz. It is known as the Al-Ta'if agreement. As for the second situation, it is not covered by the Al-Ta'if agreement. The area which is not covered by the Al-Ta'if agreement is a vast area shared by the surrounding states, namely the YAR, the PDRY, and the UAE. [passage omitted]

President Receives Cable From Polish President

JN0308104288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a congratulatory cable from the Polish president. Following is the text of the cable:

Please accept my warmest congratulations and best wishes to you on your reelection to the post of YAR president.

I express my confidence that your activity is praiseworthy. It will contribute, in a common effort, to strengthening friendship and cooperation ties between our two countries on the basis of mutual respect.

[Signed] General Jaruzelski, chairman of the Council of State of Poland

Ramadan Returns From Tour, Delivers Statement

JN0308170788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister, returned home today concluding a 3-day tour which included five Arab countries: Kuwait, Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, YAR, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Ramadan said in a statement to INA that he delivered verbal messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers, the kings, heads, and princes of these countries. The messages included greetings from the Iraqi president and people and the leadership's pride in the progressive level of bilateral relations which have strengthened Arab solidarity and elevated it to a level that enables it to face aggressive challenges.

Ramadan added that the brother Arab leaders of these countries sent their greetings to President Saddam Husayn and their serious intentions of continued efforts to strengthen and deepen fraternal relations with Iraq. They also repeated their congratulations on the great victories which the Iraqis achieved by kicking out the Iranian aggressors. They are considered a source of victory and pride to all Arabs.

The first deputy prime minister said that he had informed the Arab leaders of Iraq's stand on the efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598. He affirmed the Iraqi leadership's firmness on this stand, its adherence to real and comprehensive peace through direct negotiations, and its rejection of the scandalous attempts to divide Resolution 598. He said the purpose of these attempts is to effect a cease-fire only.

Ramadan said that the brother Arab heads, kings, and princes affirmed through his meeting with them their support for Iraq's firm demand of direct talks, since they are the short, right, and sound way to establish permanent and comprehensive peace. He referred to the Arab leaders appraisal of Iraq's stands and serious and honest efforts to establish peace ever since the first weeks of the war.

The first deputy prime minister described the results of his tour as successful and very useful. He said the prevailing atmosphere was that of joint understanding, conformity of opinion on the necessity of strengthening existing relations, and unity of the Arab desire to establish a comprehensive peace and defend the legitimate rights of the Arabs strongly and firmly against all attempts to rob the Arabs of their legitimate rights.

The Foreign Ministry secretary accompanied Ramadan on this tour. Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of ministers received the first deputy prime minister upon his arrival.

President on Tours of Envoys

JN0308204688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During the meeting, a review was made of the tours of his excellency's envoys—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; and Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member—to a number of fraternal Arab states. The meeting affirmed Iraq's stand calling for direct negotiations to achieve a just and honorable solution that will guarantee peace and security for the peoples of the region and achieve a swift end to the ongoing Iraq-Iran war.

During the meeting, the political situation in the Arab and international arenas was also reviewed.

President, YAR's Salih Discuss Various Issues

JN0308203688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to the country. His excellency was accorded an official welcome with President leader Saddam Husayn at the head of those receiving him. Participating in the welcome were RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; and Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president.

Also participating were the RCC members, the comrade members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, Presidential Office head Ahmad Husayn, Education Minister 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din—the head of the dispatched escort of honor accompanying the guest president—the ministers, the president's secretary, and the YAR ambassador and embassy staff in Baghdad.

Following a brief rest at the grand lounge of honor, during which President leader Saddam Husayn and his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held cordial discussions, the president leader accompanied his guest Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on a tour of Baghdad. During the tour, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was acquainted with the historical and cultural sites of Baghdad. Afterward, President leader Saddam Husayn accompanied his brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his place of residence.

YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is accompanied by a delegation comprised of 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Shaykh 'Abdallah Husayn al-Ahmar, Advisory Council member and Standing Committee member; Eng Ahmad al-Mansi, minister of education; 'Ali Muhammad al-Mansi, head of the President's Office and Standing Committee member; and Ahmad al-Radi, secretary of the Republic's Presidency.

Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, made a statement on arrival in which he said:

I am pleased to pay a visit to fraternal Iraq as an expression of the strong ties of fraternity and as an extension of the brotherly, constructive relations between our two fraternal peoples. The visit will enable us to exchange viewpoints with Brother President Saddam Husayn and officials in this sisterly country in order to consolidate stands and joint coordination between the two fraternal countries on many issues of interest to our Arab nation. This comes in light of the grave challenges facing this nation that make it incumbent upon its leaders to hold further consultations and meetings. These talks must be held in order to consolidate the march of Arab solidarity and joint action which serves our Arab nation's objectives and higher pan-Arab interests.

Among the important issues to be discussed are the current developments in the region, headed by the recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war in light of the international peaceful moves being taken to end the war through the comprehensive and total implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for ending the war and achieving a just and durable peace in the region.

We in the YAR have always affirmed our denunciation of the continuation of this destructive war that serves only the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation and exhausts the material and human resources of the two neighboring Muslim Countries. At the same time, we have always affirmed our principled constant stand in support of fraternal Iraq to defend its territory, leadership, and independence. We have also supported all peaceful initiatives and efforts that fraternal Iraq continues to exert with all sincerity and good will in order to stop the bloodshed in this destructive war and to acheive a comprehensive and just peace in the region in a manner achieving freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

The developments and victories achieved by our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied land in confronting the Zionist violence and terrorism will be among the issues that will be given attention and concentration during our discussions with the brothers in Iraq. This is in order to achieve further coordination among Arab efforts and stands and to bolster means to support the vehement popular revolution which is confronting with stones the most sophisticated and lethal means of annihilation and torture. This revolution will continue until it achieves all its objectives in regaining all the Palestinian Arab people's national legitimate rights to repatriation and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

Attend Dinner Banquet

JN0408063488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Brother leaders Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Force, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq, held a meeting at the Dijlah Palace in Baghdad at 2030 Sanaa time yesterday.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the Arab region and the current developments in the Iraq-Iran war in light of the ongoing international moves designed to end the war by fully implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598. This resolution calls for ending the war and achieving a just and lasting peace in the region.

Attending the meeting were members of the delegation accompanying the brother leader president and the YAR charge d'affairs in Baghdad. On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by brothers Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and minister of state for foreign affairs; Latif Jasim, culture and information minister; 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din, education minister; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; Hamid Yusuf Thannabi, the president's secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

The brother leader president yesterday evening attended a dinner banquet at the Dijlah Palace hosted in his and the accompanying delegation's honor by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The dinner banquet was attended by members of the Iraqi RCC and of the Ba'th Party Regional and National Commands, ministers, senior officials, ranking Iraqi Armed Forces officers, the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa, and the YAR charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Hold 'Closed Meeting'

JN0408122688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a closed meeting today. This morning, the two presidents held a round of talks in the presence of the two delegations. The talks dealt with strong bilateral relations and the Arab situation in general.

President Salih reiterated the fraternal YAR's support for Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian regime's aggression. He also valued Iraq's stands, its continuous efforts to end the war and achieve a comprehensive and fair peace, and its stand on direct negotiations to accelerate the achievement of peace. [passage omitted]

Polish Transport, Communications Minister Leaves

JN0208112888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 2 Aug 88

[excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Polish Transport and Communications Minister Januz Kaminski, and the delegation accompanying him, left Baghdad today following a weeklong visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,283

JN0308170588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1603 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Communique No 3,283 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our victorious Armed Forces' activities for last night and today:

1. To destroy the economic pillars that feed the Iranian regime's aggresive war efforts, the aircraft of our heroic Air Force carried out the following two heroic operations at 0900 [0500 GMT] today.

a. A destructive blow was dealt to the pumping station in (?Bidruyeh).

b. The pumping station in Kanjan was raided. A successful blow was dealt to it.

After carrying out the two missions, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection. God bless our brave hawks.

2. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, three of the enemy personnel were killed, one (Bokline) ditch excavator was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, four other enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed.

3. In the VII Army Corps sector, one enemy personnel was killed and one machine gun was destroyed and its crew killed.

4. Nine enemy boats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port yesterday. The brave men of the port confronted them with weapon fire and forced them to flee toward the Iranian caost.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 August 1988

Plane Downing Denied

JN0308160988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1557 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims on the downing of an Iraqi fighter plane this morning.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that all our planes which flew missions today returned safely to base.

Chemical Attack Denied

JN0408062888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0555 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about Iraqi planes dropping chemical bombs on the town of Oshnoviyeh in northwestern Iran yesterday.

In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said the aim of these unfounded claims is to justify its continued policy of aggression, create obstacles to implementation of the Security Council resolution in letter and spirit and in accordance with the sequence of its operative articles, and to make feeble and baseless pretexts designed to avoid direct negotiations to end this war.

Oil Installations Raided

JN0408143688 Baghdad INA in English 1423 GMT 4 Aug 88

Baghdad, Aug 4, INA—Iraqi Air Force jets at 10:30 hours (06:30 GMT) this morning carried out a destructive raid on the Iranian oil pumping station of Asar, an Iraqi military spokesman announced here today.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that other numbers of Iraqi jets raided targets in the pumping station of Tang-e Fanni destroying them.

The spokesman said that all Iraqi jets involved in the raids returned safely to base.

Iranian Acceptance of Resolution 598 Detailed

JN3007152788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Informed diplomatic sources have given INA detailed information on the background pertaining to Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598 and the developments which preceded the announcement of this acceptance.

These sources said that a special envoy of Rafsanjani, his brother, met with the FRG minister of foreign affairs on 12 July and informed him that Iran was ready to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 598 if such an acceptance were accompanied by a U.S. acceptance of withdrawal from the Arabian Gulf.

Rafsanjani's envoy, who is his brother, returned to Tehran on Wednesday, 13 July, to inform Rafsanjani of Washington's refusal to link its presence in the Gulf to the Iranian decision and to tell him that Washington will maintain its presence there as long as this presence is dictated by circumstances.

These sources added that on the same day, Rafsanjani summoned Major General Qasim Zahir Najad, Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defense Council; Brigadier General Jalali, defense minister; Brig Gen Sattari, commander of the Air Force; Brig Gen Hoseyn

Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces; Brig Gen Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy; Mohsen Rafiqdust, IRGC minister, and Mostafa Mir-Salim, chief adviser to Khamene'i, and held a meeting of several hours with them at his home.

He asked them to give their attitudes toward the war and its latest developments. He also asked about their future war prospects from a purely military viewpoint.

There was a convergence of attitudes by all with the exception of Brig Gen Hoseyn Sa'di, who voiced his reservations regarding the impossibility of continuing the war. These sources went on to say that all of them agreed on the following three basic points:

1. That the course of war has changed in favor of Iraq since the onset of the missile war.

2. That the Iranian combatant has begun to lose his fighting spirit and that his morale has deteriorated. That if the war continued, Iran has to expect further surrenders by soldiers and guards to the Iraqi forces.

3. Iraqi troops will enter Iranian territory, just as they did in Dehloran, if the war continues.

These sources revealed that on the morning of 14 July, Thursday, Rafsanjani met with Khamene'i, Musavi-Ardebili and Mir Musavi. During the meeting, they discussed the situation on the warfronts. Rafsanjani told those present that he would tender his resignation to Khomeyni the following day, Friday, if Khomeyni were to insist on continuing the war. At the end of that meeting, Rafsanjani met with the FRG charge d'affaires in Tehran.

On the morning of Friday, 15 July, Rafsanjani left, accompanied by Khamene'i and Musavi-Ardebili, for Khomeyni's house and met with him for 2 hours in the presence of his son, Ahmed. Rafsanjani informed Khomeyni that he could no longer continue the war against Iraq, the United States, and the rest of the world. He defended Resolution No 598 and said: "The big powers are now ready to protect us and prevent an Iraqi victory if we accept Resolution No 598." Khomeyni unwillingly accepted Resolution No 598. Afterward, Rafsanjani and Khamene'i left for Qom, where they met with Montazeri and relayed to him Khomeyni's decision. Montazeri did not object to this step and wished that this decision had been made last year.

On Saturday, 16 July, Rafsanjani called for a meeting with senior government officials, including the prime minister and the radio and television director. The meeting was held on the evening and lasted until the morning of Sunday, 17 July.

In the meeting, heated arguments were exchanged between Interior Minister Mohtashemi and Khomeyni Guards Commander Reza'i on the one hand and Khamene'i on the other.

Khamene'i informed the conferees of Khomeyni's decision and defended the need to accept Resolution No 598 under the circumstances of the world's sympathy with Iran following the downing of the Iranian civilian plane by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf. Meanwhile, Mohtashemi, Reza'i, Musavi, and other conferees stressed the need to continue the war and considered the end of the war a point at which a popular revolution will erupt against the regime.

Rafsanjani said that if the war continues, the people will execute all of us in one of the public squares, but if the war ends, it will be possible to find a way out of the current impasse.

At the end of the meeting, a vote was taken on whether to accept or reject UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The result was 32 in favor of acceptance, 6 against, and 3 abstaining. Those who rejected the resolution were Mohtashemi; Reza'i; Rahmani, head of the Basij; Khalkhali; and Montakhabi.

In light of this, the letter addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was prepared at Rafsanjani's office by Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, and Musavi-Ardebili.

IDF Denies Involvement in Death of U.S. National

TA0408104788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The army spokesman says no soldier was involved in the death of 67-year-old Rubhi Qa'id, who died over the weekend at a village near Ramallah. Earlier, the U.S. State Department expressed deep regret at the death of Qa'id, saying he was the first Palestinian holding American citizenship to die since the start of the uprising in the territories. Spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv was taking depositions from witnesses and was raising the incident with the Israeli Government.

The family of Rubhi Qa'id said soldiers entered their house and then forced him to clean up graffiti outside, despite protests that he suffered from a heart ailment. The relatives say that soldiers then forced him to walk up close to 50 stairs to get his American passport. Later, they say, he suffered a heart attack and died.

The army spokesman said an investigation showed no soldier was involved in Rubhi Qa'id's death, and only the man's grandchild had been ordered to clean up the graffiti. The spokesman said the grandfather had left the house with his grandchild, but the soldiers had ordered the older man to return to the house.

16,000 Civil Servants To Lose Pay in Husayn Move

TA0308180788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpts] A senior Jordanian civil servant in the territories says 16,000 Palestinians will not receive their August salaries from Amman in the wake of King Husayn's speech announcing a severance of links between Jordan and the West Bank.

Dr Yasir 'Ubayd, a health officer of the Jerusalem District, adds that in the coming days dozens of senior civil servants and municipal officials will be leaving for Amman to determine how the king's speech will affect their standing. Steve Rodan has the story:

Yasir 'Ubayd says whoever thought King Husayn's speech announcing a cut-off of ties with the West Bank was merely rhetoric had better think again. 'Ubayd, a senior Jordanian civil servant who is the chief health officer in the Jerusalem area, says 16,000 Palestinians, including doctors and teachers, will not be getting their salaries in August. These employees have been getting up to $200 a month from Jordan from the 5-year development plan that began in 1986.

That plan was the first casualty of Jordan's new policy toward the territories. Another 6,000 Jordanian civil servants who were appointed previously and received full salaries from Amman will not be affected. 'Ubayd says he does not rule out further steps in the coming weeks. [passage omitted]

At this point, dozens of pro-Jordanians are planning to go to Amman in the next few days to find out where they stand. In other words, doctors will be trying to find out whether their pension funds, paid into accounts in Amman, will remain valid under the new policy. Arab education officials will want to know what next year's curriculum will be in the 200 schools in the West Bank. Municipal officials will be trying to find whether the money they have been promised would be coming from Amman. It is a transition that many prominent Palestinians fear will not be smooth.

Peres Implies Possession of Message From Husayn

TA0308182588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] I have grounds to believe that Husayn adheres to the London agreement and the peace process, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated this evening in a meeting of the Alignment ministers. The foreign minister gave his colleagues the impression that he is in the possession of a document or a message relayed by King Husayn following his speech this week. Peres stated in the meeting: There is nothing more fake than the PLO; there is no eel slicker than 'Arafat. He has no control over the PLO, Nayif Hawatimah, or George Habash. This was reported by our correspondent Dov Gilhar.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 3 August adds: "Reacting to the proposal of Likud ministers to apply Israeli law to parts of Judaea and Samaria, the Alignment ministers said this evening that such a move would represent the annexation of 1.5 million Arabs and would lead to a demographic catastrophe."]

Bar-Lev Justifies Detention of Al-Husayni

TA0408044088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev says the detention of Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center, was essential for security, although there was not evidence to put him on trial. Bar-Lev told a Jerusalem news conference yesterday Al-Husayni is an agitator and one of the leaders of the Palestinian uprising. Bar-Lev said that while the evidence was lacking, testimony from Arab sources would completely justify Al-Husayni's detention.

Palestinians Split Over PLO Government-in-Exile

TA0408084988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher, Joel Greenberg, Ben Lynfield, and agencies]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] West Bank supporters of the mainstream Fatah group in the PLO expressed support for the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile to facilitate a PLO takeover of institutions and

services in the West Bank. The PLO-backers talk of a "Palestinization" of the institutions currently linked to Jordan, and the infusion of Palestinian funds through international organizations.

"I think now is a suitable time for such a step by the PLO, but it should be coordinated with the Arab states," said deposed Hebron mayor Mustafa al-Natshah.

Supporters of more radical factions within the PLO oppose the idea of a government-in-exile, in accordance with the positions of those factions which argue that such a government would mean renunciation of claims to a state and government on Palestinian soil.

"The situation is not ripe now for such a move," said former Nabulus mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah. "Such a government won't be able to run affairs in the West Bank, because the Israeli occupation is there. On the diplomatic front, both the Israelis and Americans are still refusing to budge. And the PLO itself is not unified enough to take such a step."

In Gaza, there were similiar differences of opinion. Rashad al-Shawwa, former mayor of Gaza, told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile was "not a feasible idea."

But Zuhay al-Rayyis, a Gaza lawyer and journalist, said that the formation of a government-in-exile would be a "constructive step," provided that the move was backed by a large majority of Palestinian factions and Arab countries. "It may help bring us national unity and wider support," he said. [passage omitted]

Curfews Lifted on Al-Shati', Jabalyah Camps
TA0408105088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The curfews on the Gaza refugee camps of Al-Shati' and Jabalyah were lifted this morning. At present, the only curfew still in force in the Gaza Strip is at the Al-Burayj camp.

Future of Residents of Territories Viewed
TA0208194788 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Aug 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What Now?"]

[Text] In the wake of King Husayn's speech yesterday evening in which he decided to officially end unity between the two Banks [West and East], Jordan has become like any other Arab state with regard to the Palestinian problem. This decision will definitely lead to tightening the political and economic grip on residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The question now concerns the fate of the open bridges, the agricultural exports of the occupied territories, the Awqaf departments, the educational and training institutions, salaries of civil servants, and unions that are connected to those in Jordan, as well as the fate of the Jordanian passport held by West Bank residents. Will its name remain the West Bank after King Husayn's speech?

The Palestinian people are living under harsh and tragic circumstances. They have the complete right to adhere to their wishes, hopes, and aspirations, particularly those pertaining to their right to self-determination and the construction of their future economic, political, social, cultural, and diplomatic institutions. These institutions must be constructed on bases that allow the Palestinian people to demonstrate their national identity as do their brothers in the 20 Arab states extending from the Atlantic to the Gulf.

Whatever the political orientation of Arab leaders toward the Palestinian people in the refugee camps in Lebanon or in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian people have always been opposed to entering into the corridors of fear and doubt and have always tried to build their relationship with Arab states on an evenhanded basis. Intense Arab political rivalry, however, has always been a strong barrier to the inclinations of the Palestinian people and made them a mere testing ground and fertile pasture for practicing the rituals of Arab differences and divisions.

In these difficult times and fateful conditions we appeal to all the Arabs to help us bear the heavy burden which we carry in the name of all the Arabs. In the equation of the Arab-Israeli conflict, politics has dictated that the Palestinian people be the spearhead that cannot be separated from the Arab body. They will be strong if this body is strengthened and weak if it is weakened.

In fact, and for the sake of history, every Palestinian is now saying: We are standing alone in carrying the burden of confronting the challenges that pervade the Palestinian cause. At the same time, we see the Arab nation holding itself in the corner as an observer and follower of events.

Jordanian Generosity, Respect Sought for PLO
TA0208191488 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Aug 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Only Option"]

[Text] In his comments yesterday on the recent Jordanian steps, represented by the cancellation of the development plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed his readiness to conduct negotiations with Jordan and with the "Palestinians," but he would have preferred to negotiate with the two parties together.

Though he is fervently seeking direct negotiations with Jordan and the "Palestinians," whom he would choose according to his own specifications, Peres did not hide his pain at the loss of the "Jordanian option." It is on this option that he has always wagered and built great

hopes within the framework of his efforts to find a solution for the occupied territories independent of the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

We should not forget that when Peres talks about "Palestinians" this word means in his lexicon persons who are ready to stand in a formation other than that of the national consensus, and in positions other than those of the masses.

One who follows the general outline of Peres' remarks realizes that this proposal does not depart from numerous statements he has uttered within the framework of his deceptions and games seeking to market rotten merchandise, immature thoughts, and positions overshadowed by political plans bolstered by the uprising.

If Jordan, as mentioned in the royal speech, has deemed fit—"and this is our hope"—to provide a service to the uprising's masses and reinforce the PLO's position as the ultimate power by announcing its new measures and opening the way for the PLO to become acquainted with its national responsibilities toward the occupied land's masses, these positions would be more serious, more sincere, and more effective if they were to rise to the level of dealing with the PLO with generosity and on the basis of respect for the independent national decisionmaking. We hope that this will be expressed in the moves that will follow the Jordanian measures and which Israeli officials, including Peres, have described as mere tactical measures.

The new Jordanian approach, while reflecting the scope that the uprising is occupying in the Arab and international arenas, should develop to a level in which it would be impossible for Israel and the United States to market their plans on the basis of what they call the "Jordanian option."

PLO Ability To Administer Areas Questioned

TA0208190888 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Aug 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Whereto the Destiny?"]

[Text] One of the highlights of the pan-Arab and comprehensive speech delivered by King Husayn with utmost frankness and clarity was the separation of the West Bank from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This separation came, as King Husayn noted, in view of the desire of the PLO and the Arab nation since the Rabat summit, through the Fez summit, and including the Algiers summit. Jordan could not but comply with this request in response to the Arab conviction that such a measure will contribute to aiding the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their aspirations and attain their legitimate rights on the soil of their homeland.

With the reinforcement of this separation between the two Banks [East and West], the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be dependent on the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Thus another experiment in unity has ended in failure just as similar experiments between Syria and Egypt, Syria and Iraq, Libya and Egypt, and Iraq and Jordan. This despite the fact that Jordanian-Palestinian unity was an example of the cohesion of the two peoples and the core of a more comprehensive unity. This is the nominal pan-Arab objective on which there is a meeting of minds by all Arab peoples all over the great Arab homeland.

The Jordanian measures seeking to disengage Jordan from the West Bank, the latest of which were mentioned in King Husayn's speech, have placed full responsibility on the PLO not only for dealing with the Palestinian problem in international and diplomatic forums, but also with Jordanian institutions that are now within the framework of the PLO's obligations in the wake of the cancellation of legal and administrative relations with institutions in the West Bank. How will this be effected in reality under the conditions of occupation? And what about our educational, medical, agricultural, and other institutions?

Many questions came to the mind of everyone who heard King Husayn's speech affirming the need for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. For example, how can a Palestinian-Jordanian relationship contradict the establishment of an independent Palestinian state? How will the PLO be able in practice to exercise its control over the occupied land? How can this Jordanian step be in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people? How can these measures aid the national Palestinian trend and highlight Palestinian identity? These and other questions made the Palestinian people in the occupied territories suffer a certain confusion and amazement. The big question though, is whereto the destiny?

The Palestinian problem has entered a dangerous alley as a result of these measures. A careful reading of the speech gives the impression that Jordan's abandonment was motivated by the PLO's wish and the general orientation of the Arab nation's leadership. We believe though, that this abandonment at the current stage will increase the suffering of the Palestinian people because at present the PLO does not possess the capability to carry out the administrative and executive tasks under occupation. Although it is correct that the Palestinian people are able to run their own affairs, will the occupation authorities allow them to exercise these capabilities and carry out these tasks? The severance of Jordanian relations with the West Bank was the last thing on our minds because our struggle with the occupation is so intense that it does not allow us to pay attention to other matters irrespective of their importance.

Despite the fact that in his speech King Husayn stressed the resolve of every Palestinian and Jordanian to accelerate the struggle for ending the occupation, regaining the land and the rights, and establishing peace and stability all over this homeland, what we fear most is that time will prove that

these measures will prolong the night that has enveloped the occupied land, and that the break of the dawn for which we have awaited has become a dream.

Jordan Urged To Continue Aid to Territories

TA0308144988 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Aug 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Measures That We Hope Will not Be Augmented"]

[Text] Reaction in the occupied territories to King Husayn's pan-Arab and comprehensive speech was marked by anticipation and bewilderment. No one had anticipated the adoption of such measures by King Husayn, heir to the great Arab revolution and its standard bearer, and committed to its principles of unity and liberation. No one had expected Jordan to take such measures despite the unfair attacks which always tried to distort its image and its pan-Arab aims and positions.

One who follows the evolution of the Palestinian problem from the 1974 Rabat summit, through the 1982 Fez summit, and to the 1988 Algiers summit, realizes the nature of the recent measures and the background to their adoption. He also realizes that this is an opportunity to dot the i's and cross the t's, as well as a practical translation of the pan-Arab decision on Palestinian representation. These measures are regarded as an implementation of this decision through legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank, removing any sensitivities, doubts, or frictions with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in a manner that would help the PLO fulfill its role in achieving the aim, namely the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

It should be stated in this context that there was some misunderstanding in the past, as well as a crisis of confidence and dissatisfaction by the PLO regarding any role played by Jordan, in the belief that Jordan, which was carrying out its duty in providing support and assistance, was diminishing the PLO's role.

Here, from the site of the blessed Al-Aqsa, we call on King Husayn and Jordanian officials to refrain from carrying out and reinforcing this separation and division. We ask them to not adopt other measures, within the framework of legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank, that will leave a vacuum in the occupied territories. From this premise we also call on the PLO to find a formula for coordination with Jordan after Jordan clarified its stance and responded to the desire of the PLO to assume all responsibilities as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Since Jordan has not abandoned the Palestinian cause and will continue to provide aid and support to the Palestinian people in liberating their national soil and determining their future over their land, we insist that Jordan remain a major backer of the Palestinian people in their uprising that has become a flare lighting the road to the future.

Jordan has sacrificed in the past and paid the price for its pan-Arab positions without consideration for gain or loss. We hope that Jordan will continue to bear its burden as a pan-Arab duty.

Adopting a series of measures in support of national orientation and highlighting Palestinian identity is one side of the coin. The other side is that these measures will make life more complicated in the occupied territories and will increase the people's suffering under these difficult circumstances.

Decision Made To 'Sack' Palestinian Employees

NC0408093988 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, Aug 4 (AFP)—Jordan decided Thursday to sack 21,305 Palestinian employees in the Israeli-occupied territories and halt monthly payments to some 3,000 others, Jordanian officials said. The move follows King Husayn's announcement Sunday of a break in administrative and legal ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Officials said the new measures are to be formally announced in a cabinet statement later in the day.

Iraq To Give Jordan 90 Chieftain Tanks

JN3007150388 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic 29 Jul 88 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—During a telephone conversation between King Husayn and President Saddam Husayn in which they exchanged congratulations on the blessed 'Id al-Adha, the Iraqi president said: "On the occasion of 'Id al-Adha and the recent Iraqi victories, our country will present to you a modest gift, namely 90 Chieftain tanks. We seized these tanks during recent battles with the Iranians. We will also give you other equipment, weapons, and ammunition." Informed sources have estimated this gift at half a billion dollars.

King Husayn, Al-Asad Hold Phone Conversation

JN2907154488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic held a telephone conversation at noon today. They exchanged views on fresh Arab developments within the framework of ongoing consultations between the two great leaders.

Joint Higher Committee Meetings Held With Egypt

Egypt's Sidqi Arrives

JN2907121288 Amman Domestic service in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Amman this morning leading a high-level official delegation on a visit to Jordan that will last 3 days. During the visit, he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Dr Sidqi will also lead the Egyptian side to the meetings of the joint Egyptian- Jordanian higher committee which will begin in Amman tomorrow. The Jordanian side will be led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. Dr Sidqi was given an official reception at Amman airport led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. [passage omitted]

In an arrival statement, Sidqi said: In the name of the Egyptian delegation and in my own name, I express pleasure to be in Amman, capital of sister Jordan. As you are aware, the main reason for this visit is the meetings of the eighth session of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee which is chaired by the two prime ministers in the two fraternal countries.

Sidqi added: The success of Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation is manifested by the fact that this is the eighth session of the committee. This demonstrates the two sides' desire and insistence on continuing the march and cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all fields—political, commercial, economic, industrial, and others.

He said: The greatest evidence that the two states are intent on realizing the aims set for this committee by the two leaders, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, is the high level delegations. The two delegations are always on the highest possible level. When His Excellency Zayd al-Rifa'i visited us in Cairo last December, the Jordanian delegation was on the highest level in terms of both officials and experts. The Egyptian delegation is now at the highest level in terms of both politicians and executive experts.

Dr Sidqi said: I am very optimistic about the existing cooperation between the two countries for objective reasons. I am certain that under the guidance of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Mubarak and with sincere, fruitful cooperation between the two countries, much can be realized. God willing, we will achieve more in this meeting and future meetings. In conclusion, Sidqi said he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and convey a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Sidqi, Al-Rifa'i Meet

JN2907184088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Amman today with a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan on the latest Middle East developments, the Palestine problem, and the Iraq-Iran war. 'Atif Sidqi was received at Amman military airport by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. In a statement to the press, Zayd al-Rifa'i welcomed Iran's decision to accept Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a cease-fire in the Gulf, if the aim of Iran's new stand is really to end the war and bring about a situation that leads to stability in the Arab region and ends the problem in the Gulf.

However, Al-Rifa'i said that so far the picture is not yet completely clear and what is required is not merely a cease-fire but a radical end to the war. Al-Rifa'i added:

We hope that the Iranian decision reflects a stand that positively responds to the Iraqi stand that calls to end the war and not merely a cease-fire that enables Iran to resume the war in the future.

The Egyptian prime minister is accompanied by an official delegation that includes 11 ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. The delegation will take part in the meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee to begin on 30 July under the chairmanship of Al-Rifa'i and Sidqi. The latest meeting of the committee—established in 1985 to promote economic, commercial, industrial, and cultural integration between the two countries—was held in Cairo in December 1987.

King Husayn Receives Sidqi

JN3007183288 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received 'Atif Sidqi, Egyptian prime minister and head of the Egyptian side to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee, and members of the Egyptian side, at Al-Nadwah Palace today. Dr Sidqi conveyed a message to his majesty from his brother, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. His majesty was briefed on the progress on cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries in all fields.

Attending the meeting were His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister and head of the Jordanian side to the committee's meetings; Marwan al-Qasim, Royal Court chief; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and members of the Jordanian side to the committee's meetings. The audience had lunch with his majesty the king.

Joint Committee Meetings Open

JN3007123988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Text] Meetings of the eighth session of the joint Jordan-Egypt higher committee got underway in Amman at the Prime Ministry this morning. They were co-chaired by Egypt's Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. Welcoming the Egyptian team, the prime minister lauded the fraternal ties between the sisterly countries thanks to His Majesty King Husayn's and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak's instructions. The committee's meetings, added Al-Rifa'i, mirror the profundity of existing brotherly relations between the sisterly countries. Sidqi said in response he was glad to visit Jordan. He praised the existing brotherly ties between Egypt and Jordan.

The committee approved its agenda and discussed economic ties with special emphasis on the joint Jordan-Egypt holding company and its projected ventures including the production of fodder, red meat, seeds, fishing, and investments in the tourist industry. The committee expressed satisfaction with the 10th protocol on economic and commercial cooperation. It was decided to increase the volume of trade exchanges. The committee reviewed industrial coordination, standardization of measurements and specifications, and technology-based projects. It also considered a swap of information and expertise in the areas of technical cooperation and data system.

The committee also looked into bilateral cooperation and coordination in preparing development plans of the two countries. It was also decided to form a committee emanating from the higher committee under the name of the joint committee on consular affairs to regulate consular issues.

In an evening session today, the committee is expected to review cooperation in agriculture, petroleum, mining, energy, transport, culture and education, wire and wireless communication, information, manpower, and health.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by the deputy prime minister, the foreign minister; the deputy prime minister and planning minister; and the ministers of housing, transport, communciations, electricity and energy, information, industry, social development, economy, education, manpower, and international cooperation along with a number of experts and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by the deputy prime minister, the minister of education; the ministers of foreign affairs, agriculture, trasnsport, communications, energy, higher education, information, works, housing, industry, commerce, planning, tourism, the state minister for prime ministry affairs, the Central Bank governor, the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the president of the 'Aqaba Region Authority, the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Cairo, and a number of experts.

Bilateral Cooperation Discussed

JN3007193888 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 30 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee opened its eighth session of meetings in Amman today. [passage omitted] The higher committee resumed its meetings this evening to discuss cooperation in the fields of agriculture, energy, minerals, and electricity. The discussion also tackled air and maritime trasport. It was decided to double flights between the two countries to serve tourist marketing.

The committee was notified of the opening of direct telephone switchboards, and decided to promote expertise for modernizing school curricula and encouraging

research. The sessions were attended by several ministers and specialists from both sides. Earlier in the day, Mr al-Rifa'i held a separate meeting with the Egyptian prime minister.

Joint Minutes Signed

JN3107153088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] Joint minutes were signed at the Ministry of Transportation today between the Jordanian and Egyptian Transportation Ministries. The minutes deal with adoption of special traffic permits for trucks operating on the Nuwaybi'-Aqaba line. These permits will be issued by the customs authorities in both countries in accordacne with the agreed rules and obligations.

The minutes were signed by Transportation and Communications Minister Eng Khalid al-Haj Hasan and Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, Egyptian minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport. Eng Al-Haj Hasan stated that the signing of the minutes represents a qualitative step in the joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries in order to facilitate transportation and the passage of trucks with their freight, reduce the cost of goods transportation, and link between the Arab East and Maghreb. The minutes will also facilitate the procedures previously implemented at the border posts. This will save both effort and time and increase the passage of trucks between the two fraternal countries, he added. The signing of the minutes took place on the sidelines of the meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint higher committee in Amman.

Meetings Draw To End

JN3108165888 Amman Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 31 jul 88

[Text] Meetings of the eighth session of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee ended in Amman this afternoon. Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i signed the minutes of the meetings in the presence of both countries' delegations. The minutes of the meetings asserted the durable brotherly relations between Egypt and Jordan, which were founded by his majesty the king and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The joint committee approved several resolutions and measures which guarantee the steady growth of existing brotherly relations between the two countries in all fields.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his visiting Egyptian counterpart, Dr 'Atif Sidqi, attended a luncheon given in Plaza Hotel in their honor and the members of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee by the Egyptian ambassador in Amman. A number of cabinet members and senior officials also attended the luncheon.

Sidqi Leaves

JN3107204888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Amman—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi left Amman today following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and conveyed to him a message from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also led the Egyptian side to the meetings of the eight session of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian side to the meetings of the eight session of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee, which concluded today. [passage omitted]

Statement On Meetings

JN0108065388 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The volume of trade between Jordan and Egypt will increase next year to $350 million, the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee said Sunday. A statement, issued after two days of committee meetings chaired by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his Egyptian counterpart 'Atif Sidqi, said the two countries also finalised a $250 million trade agreement for 1988.

It included a $110 million barter deal under which Jordan would exchange one million tonnes of cement and raw materials and detergents, wool and glass for Egyptian aluminium, amonia nitrate, rice, cotton and clothes. World prices would be the basis for the exchange of goods, a senior Jordanian official told REUTERS. The agreement set private sector trade at $100 million and allocated $30 million for public sector trade transactions in foreign currency.

The two countries also agreed to prepare feasibility studies for ventures planned by a joint investment holding company in meat and livestock, tourism and fishing and fish farming. Following are major excerpts from the statement released at the end of the closing session:"

Economy and Trade

The two sides agreed that Jordan should pay part of its share of the capital of the holding company by the end of August 1988. The Egyptian side has already paid part of its share. Later each side will pay 10 per cent of their respective shares in the company's capital by the end of September 1988. They also agreed to complete feasibility studies on projects for producing lean meat, fodder and crop seeds and setting up a fishing company. They also agreed to finalise establishing a joint tourism company, also under the umbrella of the holding company.

The lean meat and fodder producing facilities and fishing farms will be established in Egypt because that country abounds with suitable land and water required for such projects. The two sides entrusted the Jordanian minister of industry and trade and the Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation to follow up the

implementation of the projects and report to the higher committee by October 1988. The two sides agreed on implementation of their 1988 trade protocol. The committee decided on some measures designed to maintain the balance of trade between the two countries.

These measures provided for raising the volume of trade to $350 million for 1989, and urging the concerned authorities to help the transfer of funds due to Royal Jordanian and Egypt Air from either country. The two sides called for a meeting of a joint task force entrusted with preparing a plan for Jordanian-Egyptian industrial and technical integration by December 1988. The committee urged the concerned authorities in the two countries to speed up the exchange of information and expertise in industry-related fields. It decided to set up a joint technical committee to define the needs of consumers.

The committee urged a joint committe of planners to work out an executive programme for cooperation in implementing five-year development plans in Egypt and Jordan. Jordan and Egypt will continue to exchange information and expertise for the development of national data banks and to maintain a programme of mutual visits by experts for training and joint study. The committee agreed on measures to help both countries cooperate in land reclamation and irrigation and to exchange expertise in dealing with crop production, elimination of pests, drip irrigation, animal husbandry, production of fodder and development of agricultural implements. It also agreed setting up a joint centre for statistical information on agriculture and to help each other in developing pastures.

The two sides agreed on holding a seminar on preservation of energy in buildings, on cooperation in working out a joint programme for benefiting from wind and solar power with prospects to manufacture components used in this process in Egypt and Jordan. The committee reviewed a plan for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan and technical studies conducted in cooperation with a French company. A final report on this subject will be presented to the next committee meeting in Cairo. The feasibility study has been financed by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the French government.

The committee agreed that a ministerial meeting should be held to discuss bilateral cooperation in industry and technology. The two sides also agreed that the concerned authorities in both countries should step up cooperation in the search for oil and gas and report on the subject to the higher committee meeting in October. The committee expressed satisfaction with the continued increase in the volume of operations by the Nuwaybi'-Aqaba land-sea route and decided on further measures to be adopted to facilitate passenger travel and transport of goods.

The committee agreed that the land-sea company which is now owned by Jordan, Iraq and Egypt would carry out land as well as maritime operations and urged the three countries to pay up their financial commitments to the company's capital. The committee agreed that the two countries should exchange expertise in training teachers and modernising school curricula at all educational levels and will encourage joint research programmes. It also called for implementation of an executive programme for cultural and scientific cooperation between Egypt and Jordan for the coming three years.

The committee agreed that Egypt should accept Jordanian students at Egyptian institutions of higher learning and to offer 300 seats for Jordanian students specialising in medicine and technology. The committee was informed of the direct telephone links established last April between the two countries through a microwave telephone system through the Gulf of Aqaba and Sinai. The new system opens the chance for an additional 300 telephone channels between Egypt and Jordan.

The committee called for a meeting of Jordanian and Egyptian businessmen to study and endorse a statute for a joint tourism investment company to be set up under the umbrella of the holding company. The two countries should provide facilities and lands to contribute to implementation of this project. The two sides agreed to step up cooperation in the exchange of tourism information and expertise in coordination with the private sector.

Information

The Jordanian side will finalise work on a microwave relay station in Aqaba to pave the way for a linkup between ground networks between the two countries and between them and other Arab states. Radio and television corporations of both countries will increase cooperation in microwave coverage for southern Jordan, Aqaba and the occupied Arab territories. The national news agencies of Jordan and Egypt will conclude an agreement of cooperation in implementation of the committee's previous resolutions.

Manpower

The two sides will encourage visits by concerned institutions dealing with vocational training, social security and occupational health. The labour ministers of Jordan and Egypt will hold a meeting soon to define a formula organising the employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan. The Egyptian social security system will be entrusted with paying the dues of Egyptian workers in Jordan on behalf of the Jordanian Social Security Corporation. A Jordanian worker in Egypt will be offered a similar treatment, specially upon the termination of the worker's services.

Health

Jordan and Egypt will give priority in registration and purchases of drugs and medicine to products from either country. The holding company will conduct a feasibility study on joint pharmaceutical projects within six months

and will report to the higher committee meeting in October. The health ministers of Jordan and Egypt will hold a meeting soon to discuss scopes of cooperation in primary health care and drug manufacture control.

Consular Affairs

The two sides set up a standing committee on consular affairs to meet alternatively in Cairo and Amman and deal with consular affairs. The two sides signed an agreement on cooperation in countering drug trafficking. The Egyptian premier and the ministerial delegation which accompanied him to the meeting left Amman later Sunday.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart

JN3107122688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] A meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning under Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, they exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest, particularly the latest developments in the Gulf war after Iran had declared its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. They also discussed the efforts being exerted by the UN secretary general to implement this resolution as well as Iraq's sure desire to achieve a comprehensive peace that will secure a final settlement of the dispute.

The two sides also reviewed developments of the Palestine question and the efforts to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region. They also discussed the role played by the Nonaligned Movement. The two sides affirmed that projecting an effective role by the movement in the international arena will constitute a positive element in attaining international accord and providing opportunities to resolve difficult regional and international problems. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr Wafa Hijazi, assistant foreign minister; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials. It was attended on the Jordanian side by Nabih al-Nimr, Foreign Ministry secretary general; and a number of senior ministry officials.

Diplomatic Ties With Singapore Established

JN2807141888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Amman—The Governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Singapore have agreed to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of today, 28 July. This is to consolidate the ties of friendship and good relations between the two countries. Representation will be through nonresident ambassadors.

Paper Says Dissolving Parliament Removes 'Doubts'

JN3107065288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Time for Resolve"]

[Text] Jordan's landmark decision Saturday to dissolve the lower house of Parliament has eliminated the last trace of ill-conceived doubts over the Kingdom's intentions and political strategy towards the Palestinian problem and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict. The move, coupled with Thursday's cabinet decision to cancel the five-year development plan for the occupied territories, has declared in clear terms that Jordan does not harbour any territorial or political ambitions over the West Bank and Gaza except for liberating the people and land from Israeli occupation. On the one hand, Jordan has told the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that the Palestinian leadership has to live up to its declared commitments and shoulder responsibilities towards the Palestinian people and land. On the other, the Kingdom has sent a loud and clear message to Israel and the United States that their arrogant, stubborn refusal to deal with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people cannot continue forever.

At the same time, Jordan is not "washing its hands of" the Palestinian problem as some "analysts" have been trying to portray. There cannot be any ambiguity over the Kingdom's unwavering commitment to spare no effort at any level to liberate the occupied Arab territories. Those who say otherwise can only be trying to create disarray in endeavours to realise a concerted joint Arab drive towards bringing about a just, fair and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

Jordan has paid dearly for its staunch pan-Arab policies and stands. The dissolution of the lower house of Parliament is no exception since it leaves a vacuum in the political life of the country. However, it opens the door for a totally fresh look at the changing political and eocnomic environment in the region and elsewhere. We have to prepare ourselves to revamping our national and pan-Arab priorities. We have to chart a sound, sure-footed course aimed at realising our aspirations. It is indeed a tough task that lies ahead of us, but we should no longer be burdened with unfounded recriminations and accusations. As members of the one Jordanian family irrespective of origin, we should rise above everything else and bring the day of liberation closer to our brethren under occupation. We have to be strong ourselves to be able to pursue that goal and there is nothing as strong as a true sense of belonging and national unity to help us along the road.

Syria's Talas on Location of U.S. Hostages

NC0408074888 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Aug 88 pp 1,9

[Excerpts] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas has stated that the FRG Siemens Company paid DM18 million ($10 million) to Hizballah on 7 September 1987 in return for the release of its engineer, Alfred Schmidt, who had been held captive in Lebanon.

In an interview with the Hamburg-based STERN magazine to be published tomorrow, Thursday, Talas affirmed that that amount had been paid, noting that he obtained this information from "a rich missionary living in Nigeria who was a mediator in this operation." Talas, however, did not disclose his name or his nationality. [passage omitted]

Asked about the U.S. hostages who are still being held in Lebanon, Talas said: "They might gain their freedom once the United States pays a ransom." He noted that the hostages are either in the Iranian Embassy in West Beirut or in Sidon. "We are currently checking our information. Once we determine their location, the road to their liberation will be open," he added. [passage omitted]

Iranian Embassy Responds

JN0408132288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Beirut issued a brief statement today expressing astonishment at the fact that Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas has involved it in the issue of the hostages who are detained in Lebanon. The embassy said that what Talas was purported to have said is baseless.

It is noteworthy that the FRG weekly STERN quoted Talas as saying that the hostages could be detained in the Iranian Embassy in the Lebanese capital.

Hizballah Denies Kidnapping Alfred Schmidt

NC0308145088 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug 3 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah movement denied Wednesday a West German magazine report that it was behind the kidnapping of former West German hostage Alfred Schmidt. "For the 1,000th time, Hizballah affirms that it is not linked to the question of hostages and releases. We are neither intermediaries nor slave merchants," the Shi'ite Moslem fundamentalist group said in a statement. The group said that "remarks attributed to Syrian (Defence Minister) General Mustafa Talas on the implication of Hizballah in the release, for a ransom, of the West German are totally unfounded."

Mr. Schmidt, an employee of the West German company Siemens, was held hostage in Lebanon from January to September 1987. The West German magazine STERN, citing General Talas in its latest edition, said that Siemens paid 10 million dollars to Hizballah to secure the release. Siemens has repeatedly denied paying any ransom and a company spokesman in Munich said Tuesday that the firm stood by its previous statements. A second West German, Rudolf Cordes, is among 15 foreigners believed held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon.

Al-Husayni on Murphy's 'Unexpected' Visit

NC0408135488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] During his unexpected visit to Lebanon today, Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, met with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Following his meeting with Speaker al-Husayni, Murphy said that the United States is interested in the election of a new president for Lebanon. He said that there are encouraging signs that the elections will take place within the coming few days in this building [Chamber of Deputies].

Speaker al-Husayni said that the discussions dealt with the Chamber of Deputies' basic concept of a solution to the Lebanese problem. He noted that the presidential elections are not the objective, but a means to achieving the basic goal of saving Lebanon and solving the crisis.

Speaker al-Husayni said that his concept of a solution is based on three principles: implementing the UN resolutions in the south; achieving national reconciliation and reforms; and enabling Lebanon to make maximum utilization of Arab support, particularly the support of its big sister Syria.

The Chamber speaker affirmed that Murphy expressed readiness to support this course and expressed understanding for the Chamber of Deputies' views on a solution to the crisis. Answering a question, Speaker al-Husayni said that the parties are trying hard to overcome the obstacles to holding the presidential elections. The talks he held in Damascus, particularly with President Hafiz al-Asad, secured much support for holding the elections on time.

Al-Jumayyil, Ja'ja', Paqraduni Discuss Elections

NC0408060288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] In continuation of the current discussions on the presidential elections, President Amin al-Jumayyil held a meeting with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' and Deputy Commander Attorney Karim Paqraduni in Bikfayya at 1700 yesterday.

According to press reports, the conferees drew up a list of four candidates, two of whom are members of the Chamber of Deputies. The same reports added that the

conferees had expressed their belief that former President Sulayman Franjiyah would probably not run for office. However, should he choose to run, they noted, either Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party, would be nominated against him, or no one would be nominated and the election session would be boycotted in order to avoid any disputes, although the need to elect a president of reconciliation would simultaneously be stressed.

According to press reports this morning, the conferees formed a committee made up of former Minister Elie Salim and attorney Karim Paqraduni to follow up the matter. [passage omitted]

Paper Interviews Envoy to U.S. Abu Habib

PM0408091588 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 5 Aug 88 pp 16,17

[Unattributed interview with Ambassador to the United States 'Abdallah Abu Habib in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: After the interest shown by the Americans at all levels in Patriarch Sufayr's visit some interpretations emerged: One considered it a U.S. response to the need for Vatican participation in finding a political solution to the Lebanese crisis, which is being sought now via U.S.-Syrian mediation only. Another interpretation is that this interest represents a U.S. decision to strengthen the Maronite patriarchate in the face of the forces opposed to the U.S.-Syrian mediation. What is your opinion and what is your interpretation of this interest?

Abu Habib: I do not believe that the first interpretation was thought of when arrangements for the patriarch's visit to the United States were being made. According to my information, Catholic archbishops in the United States sent out an invitation to Patriarch Sufayr to visit Washington last November. The patriarch showed willingness to make the visit provided that it included a full program allowing for a meeting with U.S. President Reagan and others. Last March the patriarchate was actually informed of President Reagan's agreement to meet with the patriarch during his visit to Washington. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: And why did the visit take place just a few weeks before the Lebanese presidential elections?

Abu Habib: Perhaps it was a coincidence, because Catholic archbishops, 300 of them, meet twice a year, in June and November. And the U.S. Administration certainly encourages the moderate trend in Lebanon and supports its role. Patriarch Sufayr is at the forefront of that trend. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In your opinion, what are the reasons for U.S. enthusiasm regarding Lebanon?

Abu Habib: I can sum up the reasons for the new U.S. endeavor in three points: First, the U.S. move was made in response to a Lebanese request, specifically from President Amin al-Jumayyil directly. Second, the U.S. Administration found in President al-Jumayyil's proposals for political reform a sound basis for dialogue. Third, because I believe in the role of the human element, I would say that Ambassador April Glaspie's special capabilities and activities prompted the give-and-take process over the political reform issue and enhanced U.S. handling of this question. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is your opinion of the statement issued by the U.S. State Department expressing hopes that political reforms will begin before the presidential elections?

Abu Habib: The Lebanese state and all its officials, foremost among them President Amin al-Jumayyil, seek political reform. So there is no disagreement with the Americans over this. As for the timing of such reforms, it is agreed that these are difficult to achieve before the presidential elections. And it would be unfair to make them now; unfair to both the current president and the new president. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do the Americans prefer a military candidate to a civilian candidate?

Abu Habib: There is no such preference. I have not sensed any such preference by the Americans. It is wrong to believe that there is a "U.S." candidate. The Americans know the limits of their influence in Lebanon. They also know that they are not the only players on Lebanese territory. It would have been more appropriate for the Lebanese presidential candidates visiting Washington and spending their money there to spend that money in Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you feel that the Americans prefer a particular date for holding the presidential elections?

Abu Habib: I believe that the U.S. Administration agrees with the idea of holding the elections as soon as possible. This is because the atmosphere in Lebanon is both positive and encouraging, especially after the Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad summit, which was followed by a meeting between Minister al-Hashim and President al-Asad in Damascus. These meetings and contacts reflected a positive spirit which the Americans are anxious to make good use of in order to hold the elections in such a spirit as soon as possible. Of course, there is a legal limit stipulated in the Constitution. But I believe that the earliest time possible is this month. I sense U.S. support for this.

AL-HAWADITH: Will certain security or political measures be taken before the presidential elections?

Abu Habib: I do not think that during the remaining short period measures of this kind will be taken. As I said earlier, this would be unfair to both President al-Jumayyil and the new president. What is important now is

that the presidential elections be held as constitutionally scheduled and under normal conditions. By this I do not mean that the reform issue or administrative Beirut are not as important. In fact I mean that the important thing now is to hold the elections as constitutionally scheduled, regardless of the candidate to be elected.

I believe it is in the interest of the international and regional situation as well as the major and regional powers that the Lebanese presidential elections be held. No one seeks to shoulder the responsibility for a constitutional vacuum or its subsequent results, which could lead to further complication of the situation in Lebanon, including Israel and other states implicated in Lebanon at present. No one wants a constitutional vacuum or its results. [passage omitted]

Resistance Operations in South; Lahd Storms Town

NC0308143588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Resistance men carried out a series of operations against agent Lahd militia positions in the Jazzin, Kafr Huna, and Al-'Ayshiyah areas during the night and at dawn today. Meanwhile, Lahd militiamen have stormed the town of Bint Jubayl and nearby areas in search of those responsible for writing pro-resistance slogans on walls.

Lahd 'Agents' Killed

NC0308161088 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports received from the South, an agent was killed when resistance fighters launched an attack on an agent position in Shwayya yesterday. Sources have also reported that at least six agents were killed or wounded and a half-tracked vehicle was destroyed during artillery shelling and several attacks carried out by resistance groups last night and at dawn today in Al-Mashnaqah and 'Ayn al-Mir in the Jazzin area and in Taw'amat Niha in western Al-Biqa', as well as on the Kafr Huna-Al-'Ayshiyah road. The agent radio admitted these operations, saying that two agent militiamen had been killed.

According to reports from Hasbayya, two Zionist soldiers were killed when their military vehicle overturned 100 meters from Al-Hasbani. The reports add that the two Zionist soldiers were part of an occupation forces group which had accompanied the eight deported Palestinians to the Al-Biqa' plain the day before yesterday. This report was confirmed by eyewitnesses, who said they saw the two bodies lying on the side of the road until a Zionist ambulance arrived at the scene.

In another development, Zionist officers inspected forward positions held by occupation forces in the eastern sector and western Al-Biqa' yesterday afternoon. During their 3-hour tour the officers inspected agent barracks in (Qasr al-Khalil), and then went back in the evening aboard two military helicopters.

'Ferocious Battles,' Shelling

NC0308165788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal are still fighting ferocious battles on the Kafr Rumman axis to repulse an attack which the enemy and his agents launched from their posts in Tuhrah and Al-Suwayda' at 1700 today. The attacking force was advancing under heavy artillery cover. Clashes involving the use of various weapons, including heavy mortars, are now raging and shells are falling on the outskirts of Al-Nabatiyah, Habbush, and the main road. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a responsible information source in the Amal Movement declared today that the South is wide open to the struggling Resistance men, who are eager to liberate their land and exercise independent decision-making, through an operations room in which coordination will be effected without fanfares or shows.

Israeli, Lahd Forces Retreat

NC0308173488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from the resisting South a short time ago, the Israeli occupation forces and agent Lahd militiamen, who attempted to advance toward Kafr Rumman at 1700 today, retreated at 1900 after a fierce clash between the enemy force on one hand and the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal and residents of the area on the other. The advance coincided with heavy artillery bombardment of the town of Kafr Rumman and the outskirts of Al-Nabatiyah and Habbush. The shelling caused extensive property damage; there were no reports of casualties.

Al-Huss Criticizes Italian Handling of Waste

NC0308193188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has expressed his resentment and annoyance with the behavior of Italian Ambassador Antonio Mancini toward the two Italian experts who were sent by his country's government to examine toxic waste. Ambassador Mancini and the two experts did not meet with any government official to coordinate the shipping of this material. In a telephone conversation with the Italian ambassador, Al-Huss expressed surprise over the fact that the two experts had confined their contacts to Qaysar Nasr, representative of the Lebanese Forces, and that they had visited the fifth pier and left Lebanon without contacting any officials, particularly at the Foreign Ministry.

Afghanistan

Government Forces, Rebel Clashes Reported

6 'Extremist' Ringleaders Killed

LD0108164588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Our peace-loving compatriots who have become indignant at the crimes of the extremist groups, have carried out a series of practical actions in Badakhshan, Kapisa, Ghazni, Parvan, and Vardak Provinces in order to prevent their foul actions. The military section of BIA reports that in order to turn away the armed extremist groups from their regions, the brave peace-loving people of Vardak Province killed four leaders of the notorious Gulbuddin band, namely Muhammad Elias, Khan Jan, 'Abdul Wodud, and Muhammad Naim. A number of members of the band were injured. As a result of these clashes, a man and a 13-year-old boy from the province were martyred.

According to another report, the peace-loving people of Ghazni also rose against the extremist groups. As a result of an armed clash between the local people and the Gulbuddin band, two notorious ringleaders of the Guldbuddin band were killed by the people. They were Fakhrullah and Khan Zaman. The report adds that in similar clashes in Badakhshan, Parvan, and Kapisa Provinces the extremist groups suffered heavy losses.

'Warmongering Elements' Crushed

LD0108165088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] The security forces today foiled another attempt by extremists in the Kuh-e Safi Subdistrict, Bagrami District. According to a BIA report, the criminal extremists, who intended to launch surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas in the Kuh-e Safi Subdistrict, were discovered by the security forces with the direct help of the residents of the region. Four surface-to-surface missiles that were ready for launch were seized.

According to another report from Mehtarlam, the provincial capital of Laghman Province, a band of warmongerers who wanted to disrupt the peaceful life of Alingar District, Laghman Province, was crushed yesterday by the security forces. The report adds that as a result of the operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the local people, a number of the warmongering elements, including their ringleader, Rahim, were crushed and a number of their hideouts destroyed.

'Extremist' Munitions Seized

LD0108174688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pahsto 1530 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] A group of warmongering and anti-peace extremists whose dens were located in the Teri Ghashi area, Lowgar Province, and who sought to rob the people, has been crushed by the Armed Forces of the country. The military section of BIA reports that as a result of the operation which was carried out yesterday, the warmongering extremists suffered heavy losses. Several of their strongholds and hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of the operation three enemy missiles, two mortars, three recoilless guns, four DShK's, and several light weapons belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

According to another report, a group of extremists that wanted to disrupt peace and tranquillity in the environs of Baghlan Province was crushed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces. The report adds that as a result of the operation which was carried out with the direct help of the local people in the (Dowat Dara) area, a number of extremist elements including their ringleader, Eslamoddin, were crushed and a store of enemy weapons and ammunition containing 400 mortar rounds and hundreds of rounds for assorted weapons was seized.

Another report states that in the course of a mopping-up operation in Paghman District yesterday another extremist group was crushed. In the course of the operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the peace-loving people of Paghman District, eight warmongering elements were eliminated. One DShk and 1 box of ammunition, 1 box of hand grenades, and 10 mortar rounds were seized. Also, as a result of the operation 1 enemy missile unit was destroyed and 78 anti-vehicle and antipersonnel mines and 4 [word indistinct] were discovered and exploded.

Rebel Groups Clash Over 'Booty'

LD0108175388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Internecine differences among the extremist groups arising from the distribution of booty have intensified recently and led to outrageous clashes among them.

According to the military section of BIA, in the clashes which took place recently between Guldbuddin and another band in the subdistrict of Khak-e Safid in Farah, Mawlawi Qayum, the leader of one group, was killed and the leader of another group, Badruddin, was seriously wounded.

'Extremist' Missiles Captured

LD0308172288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that the Armed Forces discovered and neutralized one hundred pieces of long-range surface-to-surface missiles which had been prepared for launch against residential areas of Kabul in the Chakari and Tezin-e Khas areas of the Khak-e Jabbar subdistrict. As a result of this operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of the area's residents, a number of warmongering elements of

Gulbuddin's band; a thousand pieces of surface-to-surface missiles; thousands of assorted rounds of ammunition, including that of mortars and DShK; and 5 (?defusing) units were seized by the security forces.

According to another report, 75 surface-to-surface missiles that the extremist and warmongering elements had placed around Paghman District to be launched against residential areas of Kabul, were discovered and seized yesterday. The BAKHTAR military section reports that a number of extremists were crushed in this Armed Forces operation with the direct cooperation of the area's residents. Two of the enemy rocket missile units, one mortar, and one recoilless gun were destroyed. Four [word indistinct] and dozens of anti-vehicle and antipersonnel mines were discovered and exploded.

According to another report, the Armed Forces crushed a group of the enemies of our compatriots' peace and tranquility, who were trying to disrupt security in the Zebak District of Badakhshan Province. A number of them were captured. The BAKHTAR military section adds that as a result of this operation, which was carried out with the direct cooperation of local residents, 67 of the extremists, 1 DShK, 2 heavy machineguns, 1 rocket launcher, and 36 light machineguns were captured.

Another report from Ghazni Province says that the Armed Forces recently crushed a group of warmongers who tried to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of the Miri District and the (Deyak) Subdistrict of Ghazni Province. The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of this operation, 18 criminals were crushed and 10 surface-to-surface missiles, 1 light machinegun, 27 anti-vehicle mines, and a large quantity of assorted ammunition were seized.

New Offensive in Zabol

BK0408084488 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have launched another offensive on Qalat-e Ghelzai [Velayat-e Zabol], headquarters of Zabol Province, located on the Kabul-Qandahar highway. They fired missiles over the military center of the town, destroying two tanks and a number of armored vehicles. Thirty Kabul troops were also captured during the operation. The mujahidin are also reported to have launched an operation at a post near (Sangjoi), subdivisional town on Kabul-Qandahar highway. They have also frustrated an attack of the Kabul troops aimed at regaining the control of the town.

65th Protest Note Handed to UNGOMAP

LD0308205788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's bureau for liaison with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that the 65th note from the Republic of Afghanistan concerning four violations of the Geneva accords was handed to UNGOMAP today in Kabul. The delegation was requested to evaluate the violations by Pakistan and to inform the UN secretary general and the Afghan authorities of the results.

Mujahidin Plan 'Large-Scale Assault' on Kabul

OW0208152688 Beijing XINHUA in English 0727 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, August 2 (XINHUA)—Afghan mujahidin (holy-war fighters) are preparing for a large-scale assault on the Afghan capital Kabul.

This was stated yesterday by Char Gul Tashar, mujahidin field commander in Vardak Province adjacent to Kabul Province.

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, the largest city in Pakistan, Tashar refused to disclose the exact timing of the attack on Kabul because he said it is against military strategy.

However, he noted, the attack is to be launched shortly.

Tashar claimed that the freedom fighters have gained full control of Vardak Province by cutting off the highway from Kabul to Qandahar, the second biggest city in Afghanistan.

He said that Vardak Province is considered a very important area from a strategic point of view.

At present, the commander noted, the Soviet and Kabul regime troops have been evacuated from the province leaving its control in the hands of the Muslim guerrillas.

Keshtmand Addresses Peace Meeting in Kabul

LD0208090888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 1, BAKHTAR—A peace jirgah of the people of Kabul Province was held here today. The jirgah was attended by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC, and over 400 clergymen, deputies, and senators of the National Assembly, parliament.

Touching on the latest rocket fire on Kabul city by the opposition extremists, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand urged the participants of the jirgah to campaign unitedly against the criminal extremists and to contribute to maintain security in the Kabul Province. Later, several speakers strongly denounced the extremists for their rocket fires and other atrocities and pledged to contact the opposition in order to urge them to stop their rocket fires.

The participants of peace jirgah in Kabul Province released a resolution denouncing the extremists for their rocket fires which have caused much human and material losses. The participants of peace jirgah, says the

resolution, consider it their Islamic duties to establish direct contacts with the armed opposition in their areas and to, once again, invite them to make peace.

The participants of the jirgah in their resolution has called upon the United Nations Organisation to prevent interventions by Pakistan into the internal affairs of Afghanistan and not to allow the lethal weapons to enter into the country from Pakistan.

Creation of Constitution Council Announced

LD0108161488 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, 1 Aug (BAKHTAR)—Announcement of the Constitution Council of the Republic of Afghanistan

The Constitution Council has been established in line with Article 140 of the Constitution and with Decree No 290 dated 24 May 1988, for the purpose of overseeing compliance of laws, other legislative documents, and international treaties with the Constitution. In keeping with Article 12 of the Constitution Council law, whenever the forces of law and order and other state organs or individuals find a legislative document to be in contravention of the Constitution, they shall bring this to the attention of the Constitution Council.

The address of the Constitution Council is: Council of Ministers, opposite the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Telephones: 22811, [numbers indistinct], and 22824.

Council Examines Presidency Bill

LD3107175088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 88

[Text] The Secretariat of the Constitution Council of the Republic of Afghanistan reported holding a meeting at its headquarters yesterday afternoon under the council's chairman, lawyer 'Abdul Wahab Safi. In accordance with Article 124 of the Constitution and Article 10 of the the Constitution Council law, a bill on the office of the president was examined. The bill was drafted to improve the organizational work structure of the office of the president and to enhance its effectiveness and quality in accomplishing the tasks entrusted to it by the Constitution in the legal, executive, and judicial areas and in adopting measures concerning the country's most important internal and external policy matters.

The bill also stipulates the rights, duties, and authority of the vice presidents and presidential aides, and heads and aides of the departments of the office of the president. The draft of the Presidency bill, after it is examined by the Constitution Council, will be submitted to the Afghan president for endorsement.

According to the agenda, at yesterday's meeting of the Constitution Council the organization and budget of the Constitution Council, which was prepared according to Article 19 of the Constitution Council law, was examined and studied prior to its approval by the Afghan president.

The Constitution Council sessions examining topics on the agenda are continuing.

Briefs

Senator Appointed

The Office of the Presidency reported that in line with the list of appointed senators and in accordance with Presidential Decree No 284 dated 27 May 1988, and in accordance with Article 79, Paragraph 3 of the Constitution, Esteemed Sayyed Asadullah Husayni, son of Sayyed Ghulam Ahmad Pasha, has been appointed senator of the Milli Shura of Afghanistan. [Text] [*LD0308041788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Aug 88*]

AL-ISLAM Published

Kabul, August 2, BAKHTAR—The monthly organ of the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan "AL-ISLAM" appeared recently with a circulation of 5,000. Mawlawi Nasrullah Hanifi is the editor-in-chief of the journal which is devoted to the programme of the party and Islamic ideas. [Excerpt] [*LD0308063188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 3 Aug 88*]

India

'Red Alert' Sounded in Wake of Court Ruling

BK0308144888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 3 (AFP)—A "red alert" was sounded in parts of northern India Wednesday after the Supreme Court upheld the death sentences on two Sikhs involved in assassinating Premier Indira Gandhi in 1984, official sources said.

The alert was sounded in New Delhi and the states of Punjab and Haryana to prevent possible attacks by Sikh separatists campaigning for an independent homeland, the sources said. Security is being tightened and police leave has been cancelled.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted officials in Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, as saying that all law enforcing agencies would check "any fallout of the judgment".

Officials said security had also been reinforced at the maximum-security Tihar Central Prison here, where the condemned Sikhs are detained along with some 1,200 Sikh separatists.

A three-judge bench Wednesday ordered the execution of former Delhi Police Constable Satwant Singh, the surviving assassin of Mrs. Gandhi, after rejecting his appeal against the death sentence handed down in 1986 by a lower court.

The judges also upheld the death sentence on Kehar Singh, a conspirator, but in a move that surprised observers ordered the release of the third accused, Balbir Singh, a former police sub-inspector.

Sikh extremists have often carried out bloody attacks to avenge the killing of their leaders by security forces.

Patrols in North Intensify

BK0308160588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court has upheld the Delhi High Court judgment of death sentence to Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh in the Indira Gandhi assassination case. The third accused, Balbir Singh, has been acquitted and ordered to be released immediately. [passage omitted] The two convicts can file a review petition before the same bench within 3 months, but there will be no further hearings or arguments.

A red alert has been sounded and patrolling intensified in the northern states following the Supreme Court judgment. Official sources say this has been done to counter any possible fallout.

Gandhi on Pakistan's Involvement in Punjab

BK0308125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, the prime minister was asked by several members during question hour if he has personally taken up with President Ziaul Haq the issue of Pakistan's help to terrorists in Punjab and its involvement in the threat to lives of Indian leaders. Mr Rajiv Gandhi replied that he had not met President Ziaul Haq, but our ambassador in Islamabad had spoken to Pakistani president on this matter. The prime minister told the House that India takes a serious view of the entire matter.

110 Nationals Released From Pakistani Jails

BK0408075888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that Pakistan handed over 110 Indian prisoners at Wagah border in March last. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in a written reply that 10 of the prisoners were found to be mentally unsound and many others were physically and mentally affected by the treatment meted out to them in Pakistani jails. He said government has protested to Pakistan against such treatment to Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails.

The minister said all the repatriates, barring seven who are being provided medical care, have returned to their homes.

'Pro-Pakistani Elements' Arrested in Srinagar

BK0408030388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] More than 20 pro-Pakistani elements have been arrested in Srinagar in connection with the recent bomb blasts. According to police, their direct involvement in the explosions has not yet been established.

'Terrorists' Kill SGPC Member in Amritsar

BK0308130188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab terrorists shot dead a member of the SGPC, Mr Harjan Singh, in Amritsar District last night. He was killed outside his house in Sarhali Khord village.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill Hindu Party Leader

BK0408091488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were gunned down by terrorists this morning in separate incidents. Mr Tejpal Sathi, president of Rashtriya Hindu Shiv Sena [right-wing militant party], and his gunman were shot dead in Ludhiana. A constable, Ashok Kumar, was gunned down at Durgapur in Amritsar District. Kapurthala police has arrested a hard-core terrorist, Joginder Singh, from (Holat) last night.

Gandhi Takes 'Tough Line' in Ganges River Talks

BK0408092288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that he has given instructions that a tough line be taken with Bangladesh over the sharing of Ganges water as Dhaka does not seem to be interested in a permanent solution to the problem. Intervening during question time in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Gandhi said the issue has been taken up with Bangladesh on a number of occasions.

In reply to the main question, the water resources minister, Mr B. Shankaranand, said no talks have taken place with Bangladesh for a fresh agreement on sharing of Ganges water since November last. He said the issue of augmentation of flow of water in the Ganges continues to be on the agenda of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission.

New Party Formed in Nagaland Claims Ministry

BK0308162288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] In Nagaland, a group of 35 legislators have formed a new political party named Nagaland People's Council [NPC] and staked their claim to form an alternative ministry in the state. A PTI report from Kohima says the

group consists of 17 members of the NNDP [Naga National Democratic Party], 13 Congress-I, 1 Nagaland People's Party, and 4 Independents. The leader of the opposition, Mr (Vamuzo), announcing this, said the proposal to form the NPC has been endorsed by the executive of the Naga National Democratic Party.

Earlier, the talks between the Congress-I leaders and the dissident MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly] failed. Briefing newsmen, the Nagaland parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Shikiho Sema, denied any split in the Pradesh [state] Congress Committee as the resignations of 13 MLA's have not been accepted.

Twenty-one MP's belonging to various opposition parties have demanded the resignation of the Nagaland chief minister. In a statement in New Delhi, they said the governor should call the state assembly session at once for a trial of strength on the floor of the house. The opposition leaders also urged the president to instruct the governor to go to Kohima to deal with the situation.

Differences Emerge in Alliance of 4 Parties

BK0308132088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The unilateral announcement by Mr Devi Lal of the office-bearers of the proposed Samajwadi Janata Dal has met with stiff resistance from various constituent parties. Mr Devi Lal in a press release today announced what he called unanimous decision of the four merging opposition parties to make Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh the president of the proposed Samajwadi Janata Dal. He also announced the names of other office-bearers.

Soon after the announcement, the Janata Party vice president, Mr Indu Bhai Patel, in a press release said that his party cannot subscribe to such a decision. The party president, Mr Ajit Singh, said that the parliamentary board of his party will meet tomorrow and consider the issue.

New Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Appointed

BK0308175088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Romesh Bhandari will be the new lieutenant governor of Delhi. Announcing his appointment in New Delhi this evening, a Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] communique said the president has accepted the resignation of Mr H.L. Kapoor from the office of the lieutenant governor. Mr Bhandari will take over charge with effect from the date he assumes his office. Mr Kapoor resigned last Friday, owning responsibility for the outbreak of cholera and gastroenteritis in the capital.

In a separate announcement, the central government today appointed Mr Vijay K. Kapoor as the new chief secretary of Delhi Administration, and Mr K.S. Bains, as vice chairman of the Delhi Development Authority. Mr Ganga Das will be the commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Iran

IRNA Cites Pentagon Officials on 'Human Error'

LD0408091488 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] London, Aug. 4, IRNA—A United States defence report has defended the performance of its dollars 525 million radar missile system on the USS Vincennes that shot down an Iranian Airbus last month and tried to pass the blame onto the crew, according to ABC Television.

The American television network quoted senior Pentagon officials saying that the U.S. Navy team investigating its missile attack on the plane that killed all 290 passengers blamed "human error" for being responsible for the innocent massacre.

The warship's own computer correctly interpreted that the Airbus was climbing and not descending as first maintained but it was not known if the data centre "misinterpreted the information or conveyed it inaccurately to Captain Rogers," it said.

The leaked report comes at a time when the U.S. has been under increasing pressure about the downing of the passenger plane with a delegation from the International Civil Aviation Organisation currently in Iran carrying out its own independent inquiry after the Reagan Administration has said the case was closed.

The first stage in bringing the U.S. to account for its unmanly act was a unanimously adopted Security Council resolution on July 20 calling on the "need for a full explanation of the facts based upon impartial investigation."

ABC reported the Pentagon now acknowledging that the U.S. rules of engagement in the Persian Gulf had given its ships "great leeway to fire" but that Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Crowe was seemingly still unrepentant and that the captain "had acted correctly."

Washington persistently has shown its arrogance as a superpower over the innocent massacre that is proving increasingly counterproductive as its desperate search for a scapegoat continues to falter.

Delegation Inspects Crash Site

LD0408104488 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Aug. 4, IRNA—A delegation from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) inspected the crash site of an Iran Air passenger plane missiled down by a U.S. warship over the Persian Gulf on July 3. All 290 passengers and crew including 66 children aboard were killed in the unmanly attack by the USS Vincennes.

The delegation comprising five ICAO experts arrived here Tuesday night and watched search operations by Iranian teams to find more bodies as well as the black box of the ill-fated plane flying to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas. Some 186 bodies have so far been recovered.

During the six-hour inspection on Wednesday the ICAO experts praised Iran's efforts over the past month and advised the operations continue.

They also inspected pieces of the Iranian Airbus recovered from the scene as well as other existing documents at Bandar-e 'Abbas airport.

The delegation has requested U.S. officials to be given permission to inspect the USS Vincennes in order to complete its investigations.

A U.S. Navy team also investigating its attack on the plane has blamed "human error" for being responsible for the massacre.

The delegation is to leave here for Dubayy later tonight to continue its studies.

Embassy in Beirut Denies Holding Hostages

LD0408151088 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 4, IRNA—Iran's Embassy here refuted Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Talas' statement on foreign hostages in Lebanon as "untrue", and stressed that the Islamic Republic's mission is not involved in the hostages issue.

Talas, in an interview with the German magazine STERN, had alleged that foreign hostages are under arrest in the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

Meanwhile, an Iranian Embassy official has refuted claims of the Abu Dhabi-based daily AL-ITTIHAD that 400 personnel of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) have left Lebanon for Tehran via Damascus this week.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Chemical Attack

LD0408055588 Tehran IRNA in English 0546 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement here Wednesday deplored the Tuesday Iraqi bombardment of western Iranian city of Oshnoviyeh which injured more than one thousand civilians.

It said that the chemical raid, carried [out] hours after the release of the UN report on Iraqi usage of chemical weapons against Iran, once again proved disrespect of the Baghdad regime for international regulations.

The Baghdad regime continues to deploy the fatal weapons banned according to the 1925 Geneva Protocol. Furthermore the UN Security Council in several resolutions and statements has strongly deplored the use of the these weapons, it added. Such is the Resolution 612 of May 9 issued after the Iraqi genocide in northeastern Iraqi Kurdish city of Halabjah in March.

The Baghdad regime continues to ignore all appeals calling for a halt in the use of these weapons. The chemical bombardment of Oshnoviyeh is the latest example of the Iraqi defiance, said the statement.

Faced with such a situation the Security Council should take a stronger action against the Baghdad regime which continues to defy all laws and uses these weapons at a massive scale, said the statement.

Oshnoviyeh Casualty Toll Rises

LD0408084288 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 4, IRNA—The number of those injured in Iraq's early Tuesday chemical attack on the Iranian Kurdish town of Oshnoviyeh, in West Azarbayjan Province, rose to 1,700 until Thursday morning. Over 100 of the victims, mainly women and children, have reportedly been seriously affected and are under treatment in various hospitals in the province.

Iraqi warplanes bombed eight locations at Sheykh Othman [name as received] district in Oshnoviyeh early Tuesday (Tehran time), only hours after a U.N. expert team published its latest report on deployment of chemical weapons which explicitly blamed Iraq for its chemical warfare.

Relief teams are in the chemically-bombed area to treat victims and neutralise effects of toxic gases used in the inhuman attack.

Meanwhile, new reports say Iraqi aircraft also chemically bombed two villages of Silvana and Zaazaan [placenames as received], in Orumiyeh, in the same province near the Iran-Turkey border the same day (Tuesday).

A number of villagers and group of Iraqi Kurdish refugees were injured in the attack. No report has yet been published on possible casualties.

Velayati Meets With Security Council Members

LD0408100188 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently in New York for talks on implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 met separately with four members of the Security Council Wednesday.

In meetings with the Chinese chairman of the Council Li Luye, Yugoslav Ambassador to UN Dragoslav Pejic, British envoy Sir John Thompson and West German Ambassador Hans Werner Lautenschlager Velayati

reported on the latest developments concerning implementation of the resolution and the recent UN report on Iraqi usage of chemical weapons.

A report of the UN fact-finding team on Iraqi deployment of chemical warfare released Monday said that Iraq deployed these weapons against Iran in a massive scale.

The ambassadors all stressed that the Security Council should take an appropriate action against the issue and said that the recent report proves Iraq's violation of the Security Council Resolution 612 banning deployment of chemical weapons.

Velayati also informed members of the Security Council of Iraq's Tuesday deployment of chemical weapons in Oshnoviyeh, in northwest Iran which injured hundreds of city's population.

In a letter on Wednesday, Velayati officially urged the Security Council chairman to dispatch an experts team to Iran for immediate investigation of the latest Iraqi violation of the Resolution 612.

Informed sources at UN believe the Security Council intends to postpone any action against Iraq on deployment of chemical weapons, until the results of current talks on implementation of Resolution 598 is known.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he will announce the D-Day for cease-fire immediately after receiving the report of the technical team dispatched to Iran and Iraq. The team is to present its report today.

Mahallati Contrasts Divergent Cease-Fire Moves

LD0308163788 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] New York, Aug 3, IRNA—Almost all the U.N. Security Council members believe it a "moral duty" for international circles to seriously counter the Iraqi regime's repeated and intentional deployment of chemicals, announced Iran's ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati here Tuesday.

Mahallati told IRNA that the Iraqi regime continues to deploy outlawed chemical weapons, in scant respect to the Security Council Resolution 612 which deplores the use of these deadly arms.

The council members, he said, agree they are duty-bound to take a serious measure against Iraq's use of internationally-banned substances. They (the members) believed it is considered a moral duty for the council to adopt a decisive stance on the issue apart from ceasefire negotiations.

Mahallati said it is unlikely the Iraqi regime can prevent the Security Council from taking a decisive stand on the issue. In fact, he added, Iraq—which has lost whatever prestige it had in the world by trying to sabotage the U.N. secretary general's efforts for a truce—will be pressured more than ever before.

Asked about an Iraqi official's statements in New York disagreeing with Perez de Cuellar's efforts in stark contrast to the Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi [name and title as received] who backed the U.N. chief's plan, Mahallati said the Iraqi regime intends to delay the cease-fire through sabotage tactics. "To me, Iraqi representatives in New York are scheming to push Perez de Cuellar to a deadlock," he said.

Meanwhile, Iran's representation press adviser Amir Zamani told reporters that the Islamic Republic has accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 at the highest political level in order to achieve a fair and stable peace. Refuting the allegations of Riyadh al-Qaysi, (Iraq's former ambassador to U.N.), Zamani said Iran aims to end the war through concrete negotiations and not just a truce.

Al-Qaysi who accompanied Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to the U.N. had claimed Iranian officials only talk about a ceasefire and not about peace.

Khamene'i Warns Iraq To Accept Cease-Fire

LD0408085088 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 4, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i again warned Iraq yesterday that if it failed to accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and cease-fire, "the combatants of Islam will deal a paralysing blow on Saddam's regime."

Speaking to a group of Muslim combatants in a southern war front Wednesday night, the president lauded presence of people in the battle scenes, saying that their resistance had foiled various plots of enemies.

He said the world should take lessons from the Muslim combatants of Iran who repulsed enemy forces from their Islamic homeland while relying on their faith.

IRNA Assails Iraqi's 'Illogical Conditions'

LD0308213788 Tehran IRNA in English 2120 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Two weeks after Iran's formal acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 and despite the U.N. chief's intensified negotiations with the foreign ministers of the two countries, Baghdad's efforts to hamper the full enforcement of the resolution, have raised concern in international circles.

Javier Perez de Cuellar's two-week-long negotiations with Iranian and Iraqi officials on ways of enforcing ceasefire as the first step towards peace, have not only unmasked Ba'thist Baghdad's real nature, but have brought up new parameters in the peace talks.

New and illogical conditions being set every passing day by the Iraqi regime, which until now had feigned peace and had consistently called for Iran's unconditional acceptance of Resolution 598 over the past year, have betrayed the evil intentions and war mongering nature of those in power in Baghdad.

The new turn of events not only brings into sharper question the Ba'thist rulers so-called interest in peace, but has clearly embarrased world propaganda machines' who had been simply amplifying Iraq's deceitful stance.

Before proceeding any further, it is worth recalling Baghdad's "unbounded joy" way back on July 29, 1987, when the Security Council had passed Resolution 598, calling for ceasfire in the Iraq-Iran war.

Iraq describing it as a "comprehensive" way to end the conflict, had accepted the U.N. ruling in toto, and since then had been demanding unconditional acceptance of the same by Islamic Iran.

The whole world including international circles, ignoring Iran's justified reservations towards the issue, had voiced the Iraqi demand with parrot-like efficiency.

Global arrogance and other enemies of the Islamic revolution had even tried to misportray the much oppressed Islamic Republic as "war monger" and the aggressor Ba'thist regime as "peace-lover".

Even as late as July 17, 1988, on the very eve of Iran's historic announcement, Saddam Husayn had repeated the "peace call" in his address on the 20th anniversary of the seizure of power by his Ba'th Party in Iraq.

But the dawning of July 18, which saw the acceptance of Resolution 598 by Islamic Iran, also a dawned a new reality in world diplomatic circles, which until now had hoped in vain that the Iraqi regime would welcome Iran's move and work towards a lasting peace.

A bare 24 hours after Iran's acceptance, the "peace-loving" Saddam responded by bombing two key industrial installations, and the next day repeated his September 1980 invasion of the Islamic Republic, by ganging up with the anti-revolutionary "monafeqin" (hypocrites).

What Iran's ever alert Muslim combatants did on the battlefields against the fresh Iraqi invasion is now part of history, but on the political arena, Baghdad feeling more and more isolated has since been desperately trying to stall the enforcement of Resolution 598.

Unable to reject what it had accepted and called Iran to accept, bewildered Baghdad has resorted to new measures, by asking the U.N. chief to set five new conditions including direct talks between Iranian and Iraqi officials before ceasefire is established.

Although Iranian officials have not ruled out direct talks at some later stage when there is a complete ceasefire and all other articles of the resolution are implemented, Ba'thist Baghdad seeing all roads closed to its inherent beligerency, continues to stick stubbornly to its illogical demand.

As a result of the Iraqi regime's obstinacy, Javier Perez de Cuellar has said he might go ahead with the plan and would announce the ceasefire date unilaterally.

Caught on the wrong foot by Perez de Cuellar's remarks, Iraqi rulers, in what should be regarded as a clear affront to the secretary-general have released a letter at the U.N. Headquarters, warning that those who think it is possible to establish ceasefire without Iraq's approval are harbouring illusions.

Iraq's obviously hostile stance against the statements of the U.N. chief coupled with its absurd pre-requisites are a blatant violation of international obligations and betray its own claims to peace.

Resolution 598, confirmed time and again by Baghdad, grants no right to either of the warring parties to set any new conditions, and therefore if the Iraqi regime thinks it is possible for her to claim such a right, then logic dictates that the Islamic Republic, the victim of the aggression, should also have a similar right.

Iraq's new conditions are clearly outside the framework of U.N. Resolution 598.

Iranian officials' statement that they would study the possibility of direct talks with Iraq has nothing to do with the resolution but indicates Tehran's good intention to establish a lasting peace. This is contrary to the Baghdad regime's claim that Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 was a tactical move.

It is now clear to world public opinion and international circles that it was the Iraqi regime which continued its aggression against Iranian territory and its chemical and air attacks on residential and industrial units despite the Islamic Republic's acceptance of the resolution.

The onus is now on the Security Council and its executive arm, Javier Perez de Cuellar, to fulfil their undertakings and force the Baghdad regime to unconditionally accept the resolution.

The Iranian Muslims know that the formal acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic was a political and historical measure in the interest of Islam, the Islamic Revolution and the country.

Iran's acceptance of the resolution has disarmed the enemy and disproved its claim of peace, and from now onwards the Iraqi regime is facing the U.N. and world public opinion.

However, global arrogance's threats to deal a blow on the Islamic Revolution which is committed to its humanitarian and justice-seeking ideals have still not been diminished. Any negligence by Iranian people towards this grave issue especially that of the Iraqi regime could deal severe blow to the causes of the Islamic Revolution.

As long as the aggressive enemy maintains its barbaric nature and continues to obstruct the implementation of Resolution 598, Iran's Muslim people should be on guard. With fingers firmly on the triggers they should await an order from the founder of the Islamic Republic to give a decisive response to the enemy's mischiefs.

Commentary on Possibile UN Announced Cease-Fire
LD0308143588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, compassionate. Our first political commentary of today concerns the possibility of the UN announcing a cease-fire. Following the negotiations with our foreign minister and one of the Iraqi representatives at the United Nations, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has stated that from a legal point of view, he or the Security Council can unilaterally declare a cease-fire. The secretary general's new position follows the Iraqi demand for direct negotiations before any cease-fire can be imposed.

Dr Velayati has repeatedly stated that Iran is prepared to hold direct negotiations, but only after the implementation of the stages of Resolution No 598. In this connection, the UN secretary general added that the present problem concerns direct negotiations, and when they should start. [passage omitted]

According to political observers, the Iraqi regime is fast becoming aware that its insistence on direct negotiations will lead to its isolation. Therefore, it is trying to gain some international and regional support. After the Islamic Republic of Iran sent its representatives to some Persian Gulf states and Turkey to explain and clarify the Iranian positions, the Iraqi regime in response also sent representatives to some Persian Gulf states. Furthermore, the seven-member committee formed by the Arab League concluded its meeting in Baghdad with the declaration that it backs Iraq in its demand for direct negotiations.

However, according to observers, these efforts and declarations do not have regional or international support, because the Iraqi regime itself is one of the members of the seven-member Arab League Committee. The fact that the meeting was held in Baghdad does not add to its objectivity either. Furthermore, the final declaration does not represent the position of all Arab League members.

Moreover, Iraqi efforts have been unsuccessful in their international dimension, particularly within the United Nations. [passage omitted] In an interview last night Dr Velayati announced that in light of his negotiations with some UN diplomats and in consideration of world media coverage and analysis, the Iraqi regime's insistence on direct negotiations is not very popular.

Sources close to the United Nations believe that the report published by the UN specialist team on the use of chemical weapons in the war which names the responsible party actually puts international pressure on the Iraqi regime to end to its obstructions to the negotiations. This way it is possible for the negotiations to gain greater momentum. [passage omitted]

Montazeri Remarks on 'Id al-Ghadir Reported
LD0308151888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Excerpts] We draw your attention to details of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's remarks at a meeting of various strata of the population on the joyous occasion of the 'Eid-e Ghadir, the start of the Jurisconsult and Imamate Week, and the day for renewed allegiance to the imam of the ummah. [passage omitted]

At this meeting the deputy leader greeted all Muslims of the world on the occasion of the 'Eid-e Ghadir and saluted the imam of the age—may our souls be sacrificed to him—the great leader of the revolution, and all those serving Islam and the revolution. He expressed condolences to all families of martyrs, particularly the martyrs of the recent Iraqi attacks and of the mercenary hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq].

Referring to the great march of the people on the occasion of renewing their allegiance to the imam of the ummah on 'Eid-e Ghadir, he said: I truly thank and appreciate the fact that the dear nation of Iran accepted my invitation, a seminarist, and conducted such a splendid and great march at such a crucial time for the country and the revolution. Moreover, I ask God Almighty to grant His grace, rewards, victory, and happiness in this world and eternity to this great nation. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then expressed thanks and appreciation for the sense of responsibility of the various strata of the population, the esteemed officials, and the esteemed Friday prayer leaders. Following the renewed attacks by the Iraqis and the treacherous hypocrites against the country and the revolution, these people fulfilled their duty and rushed to the fronts to defend the country. He said: I hope that this great conspiracy may soon be eliminated, that the Almighty may make the evil of Saddam and the hypocrites rebound on themselves, and that this war may end. However, we should note that to rebuild a country that has had such a great war imposed on it for 8 years—a war supported by all colonialist countries—all strata, classes, and respected officials should be prepared to cooperate and take advantage of those people who propose useful projects for the country's reconstruction in order to fulfill the goals of the revolution.

Grand Ayatolah Montazeri strongly advised the country's officials to give importance and pay more attention to the demands of the dear and selfless people of Iran who have unselfishly and devotedly shouldered problems and difficulties, and who continue to do so. He

reminded them: We should appreciate this nation's value by offering our service and adopting a compassionate and sympathetic approach toward these people, particularly the dispossessed, and the low-income and deprived strata who have many dependents but who earn little and endure life's pressures and its hardships. Of course, God willing, the war will end, but we should begin to think of solving the problem of inflation and high prices so that pressure on the weak and deprived classes is eased.

In this connection his excellency referred to the gross differences in prices between government-controlled and free market products and said: One of the important factors in this matter is the wrong methods adopted by some organs that, for example, buy many of the products needed by the people from the government at the official, cheaper rate and then sell them to the deprived at exorbitant prices on the pretext that they are raising money for the expenses of this or that institution, or for the war. However, this type of transaction undermines the well-being of the deprived and is an act of cruelty against them. He reminded them: Just as it is an offense against government regulations to sell government products at inflated prices in the free market—an offense that is illegal and forbidden in accordance with religious law and that applies to the average citizen—this act is also illegal and forbidden for all organs and institutions. Government and relevant officials should prevent this. If the war was previously used as a pretext, this excuse, God willing, will soon be removed.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then discussed the preservation of the revolution's values and the execution of justice: Those who commit sins and crimes should, of course, be punished, but revenge should not override everything which might then, God forbid, influence us and lead us to exceed the bounds of justice. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then referred to the despicable designs and vileness of the grouplets' leaders, saying: From the time that I was in prison I knew about their filthy designs and the dreams of their leaders. I am aware of them. On this basis, I tell those simple-minded, deluded young people again and again not to be deceived by their propaganda and not to be killed in this world for eternity. As the holy Imam Sadeq—God's peace be upon him—said: A human being does not have two lives to experience life once and to act on his experience the second time round. You are the youth of this country, and you saw how the grouplets cooperated with the enemy and committed treason against the revolution and the country. Come to your senses and do not be deceived by their lies. Return to the fold of Islam and to your own nation. If, for example, you should be counseled by me, a seminarist, you should not sacrifice yourself for the sake of the whims and leadership ambitions of others [riyasat-talabi]. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said with reference to Unity Week: There should be both a Unity Week and a Jurisconsult and Imamate Week. The criterion for our action is that adopted by the holy Imam 'Ali in his approach with the caliph who, although his allowance had been stopped, made unity his slogan when he saw that the religion was in danger and the satans about to sow discord among the Muslims. In many important affairs he collaborated with the caliphs. For the sake of the interests of Islam and of the Koran, Imam 'Ali did not allow certain individuals to incite civil war and factional war between Muslims on the pretext of supporting the religiously lawful and decisive right of that holy imam.

In this connection Grand Ayatollah Montazeri noted the plots of Zionism and colonialism in Islamic countries, in Pakistan and India for instance, when occasionally the agents of colonialism, the United States, Israel, and Wahhabism incite war between Shi'as and other Muslims. He stressed: All these incitements come from the lackeys of the United States and Wahhabi agents affiliated with the U.S.-Saudi regimes. Unfortunately, instead of using Saudi dollars against Israel and global Zionism they are used against Islam, the unity of Muslims, and the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and to promote a U.S.-style Islam.

He stressed: The nation and government of Pakistan and other countries should take note of these plots. Why should the Pakistani Government give permission to mercenary Wahhabi agents to commit mischief causing bloodshed and even insulting mourners at a time when Muslims are mourning the lord of martyrs, the holy Husayn, who as all Muslims believe was one of the companions of the prophet and extremely dear to the holy prophet? If the Pakistani Government wants its country to remain calm, it should stop the mischief of these mercenary and discordant elements. Today all Muslims and the five Islamic schools of thought should unite and become a strong fist in the face of the blasphemous fronts of East and West and global atheism. They should not allow Muslims' interests and the integrity of Islam and of the Koran to become a toy of the blasphemy of East and West.

In conclusion, the deputy leader prayed for the victory of the Islamic fighters on all fronts, the elimination of the enemies of Islam, and also for the health and long life of the imam of the ummah.

Italian Trade Minister Meets With Aqazadeh

LD0308180188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Italian Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero, currently heading a high-ranking economic delegation in Tehran, today met with our country's petroleum minister, Mr Aqazadeh. The Italian foreign trade minister expressed his country's desire to expand bilateral trade, and to increase the volume of exports and imports between the two countries. He stated: We are prepared to review all mentods to increase trade volume, as well as our oil purchases from the Islamic Republic.

During the meeting, Aqazadeh expressed the readiness of his ministry to expand technical cooperation and trade between the two countries. He added: Iran, having immense reserves of oil, gas, and other minerals, enjoys special conditions for cooperation in economic trade. The future is bright. However, expansion of such cooperation depends a great deal on mutual trade between two countries.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Italian foreign trade minister asked for an increase in technical cadres and experts from both sides in Tehran and Rome.

Tehran Turkish Claims Saudis Torture Pilgrims

NC0408072488 Tehran International Service in Turkish 0400 GMT 1 Aug 88

[Text] Security forces in Saudi Arabia are continuing to persecute and arrest those pilgrims who are attending demonstrations in Mecca. Reliable reports from Bonn say that those arrested are being tortured in Saudi prisons and threatened with amputation of hands and feet.

Ten Turkish pilgrims and many others from various countries have been imprisoned in Saudi Arabia. The leader of one of the groups from Turkey that went to Mecca reportedly is among those who have been arrested.

International Conference on War Scheduled

LD0308185788 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—A three-day internationl conference on "aggression and defence" will be held here from August 8 to study legal, political and historical aspects of the Iraqi-imposed war on Islamic Iran.

Secretary general of the conference Kamal Kharrazi announcing the above here today added that more than 200 local and foreign scholars are to participate in the meeting, sponsored by the country's universities and legal and research institutes.

He said the meeting affords a good opportunity for exchange of views between experts from 20 world countries and will provide a chance for foreign scholars to get aquainted with post-revolutionary Iran.

Kharrazi continued that the issue of aggression and defence in the Iraqi-imposed war, will be reviewed in a scientific atmosphere from three different angles, namely: international laws, Islamic teachings, and political and historical dimensions of the war.

The Iraqi regime has impudently breached all humanitarian and international regulations in its aggressior against Iran, Kharrazi said, regretting the fact that world bodies have revealed their gross inability to prevent aggression. "And this will be studied by researchers at the conference," he added.

He expressed hope the outcome of the conference would prove fruitful for devising preventive measures against aggression, and would propose a better mechanism in this regard, so that the world is spared any aggression in the future.

Foreign participants of the conference comprise scholars from Western, African and Asian countries.

Kerman Mobilization Forces Go To Front

LD0408141188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] In response to the Armed Forces General Command's invitation to defend the Islamic homeland, many Mobilization of the Oppressed members from Kerman Province left for the fronts yesterday in a convoy called the "Fourth Expeditious Dispatch" convoy. Mobilization members from Kerman, Rafsanjan, Jiroft, Kahnuj, Zarand, Bam, Bafq, Shar-e Babak, Bardshir, and Sirjan are reportedly included. Those also responding to the call of imam yesterday afternoon comprised Education Ministry employees and trained forces from the town of Takestan.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Aircraft Attack Lorestan

LD0408104688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] The warmongering Iraqi regime's aircraft this morning attacked two industrial workplaces in Lorestan Province, injuring a number of workers and causing damage.

Air Force Patrols Gulf

LD0308181488 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Iranian Air Force pilots Tuesday carried out patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in support of the Navy's operations, and reconnoitered positions of foreign vessels, said informed military sources.

The Iranian planes reconnoitered a total of 17 vessels including tankers, cargo ships, boats and tug boats during their patrols.

Naval forces also carried out their missions throughout the Persian Gulf region and guarded Iranian rigs, islands and defence positions.

The military sources further said the Navy checked activities of nine enemy vessels near Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms as well as in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway.

Toilers' Radio on Peace, Ties With West

LD0308102888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The Radio of the Iranian Toilers has always held that imperialism has followed prescribed objectives from the very start of the war between Iran and Iraq. One objective is to renew its enslaving ties with our country and to reinforce the chain of Iran's dependence on the West.

By its insistence on pursuing the war the Islamic Republic regime has brought imperialism closer to achieving its objective—so close that now, as the dawn of peace approaches, U.S. imperialism's foothold in Iran and in the region as a whole has been consolidated even tighter. The prospects for peace were opened up through our tireless peace-seeking struggle. However, the regime is seeking to consolidate its ties with world imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, on the pretext of seeking peace and is taking advantage of the existing mood and atmosphere. The regime is deviously trying to use peace to barter with the United States. In its betrayal of our revolution, people, and homeland, the regime is pursuing is own shameful objectives, both in those days when it insisted on the policy of continuing the war and now when it has assumed a peace-loving mask. Until recently, the regime was betraying our national interests by its emphasis on continuing the war. Today it is still persisting in its betrayal by exchanging the nation's peace for cordial ties with the imperialists.

As the Tudeh Party and the Feda'i-ye Khalq majority wing have emphasized, the imperialists led by the United States have been expanding their influence in our country for the 10 years since our nation's anti-imperialist revolution. The Feda'i-ye Khalq, the Tudeh Party, and other democratic and revolutionary forces of our country believe that this danger threatens our national independence more than ever.

Let us unite and prevent the regime from tarnishing with its shameful betrayal these initial steps of peace, this achievement of our joint struggle. Do not allow the regime of jurisconsults to consolidate its ties with the West and its dependence on the imperialists under the guise of seeking peace.

Pakistan

Spokesman Calls Gandhi Plot Report 'Baseless'

BK0308154588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has described as completely baseless the Indian newspaper THE TIMES OF INDIA's report which falsely implicated Pakistan in the alleged plot hatched in the Golden Temple in Amritsar to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Home Minister Mr Buta Singh. The spokesman's response came following statements made by the Indian ruling party as well as the opposition members in the Indian Parliament. The spokesman said it is not acceptable to implicate Pakistan in any type of activity against the Indian leaders whom Pakistan greatly respects and with whom the leaders of Pakistan sincerely continue to discuss the normalization of relations.

The spokesman reiterated that Pakistan continues to strictly adhere to the policy of noninterference in other countries affairs.

Afghan Envoy Summoned Over Shelling, Overflights

BK0308111788 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] The Kabul regime's aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace last Tuesday [2 August] and dropped 10 bombs and fired (?many flares) in an area in South Waziristan Agency. As a result, 8 Afghan refugees were killed and 16 injured. The same day Najibullah forces fired three rounds of artillery which landed in Chaman sector in Baluchistan. As a result, two Pakistani nationals were injured.

The charge d'affaires of the Kabul administration was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning, and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Report of Yaqub Khan 'Apologetic' Attitude Denied

BK0408024288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has reiterated in Islamabad that no power has any right to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. The spokesman's statement came in the wake of a report published in a Lahore daily that gave the impression Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan had adopted an apologetic attitude about the democratic system of government in Pakistan during his visit to the United States. The spokesman asserted that the foreign minister had not been apologetic about this issue at any stage of his visit to the United States.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Landmine Blast Kills 6 Indian Soldiers

BK0408094288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Colombo, Aug 4 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas blew up an Indian Army truck killing six soldiers in eastern Sri Lanka, the Indian High Commission (embassy) here said Thursday.

The dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), exploded a powerful landmine as the vehicle was passing through Koppavelli village Wednesday, a high commission spokeswoman said quoting reports from the region.

Residents in the area contacted by telephone said the vehicle was blown several meters (yards) into the air, killing the victims instantly.

It was one of the worst attacks against Indian troops in the Eastern Province in recent months, security sources said.

New Delhi has deployed some 49,000 troops in Sri Lanka's north and east in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The LTTE rejected the peace pact and refused to surrender arms prompting an Indian offensive October 10 to disarm the group. Since then more than 550 Indian soldiers and 2,000 suspected rebels have died in bitter fighting.